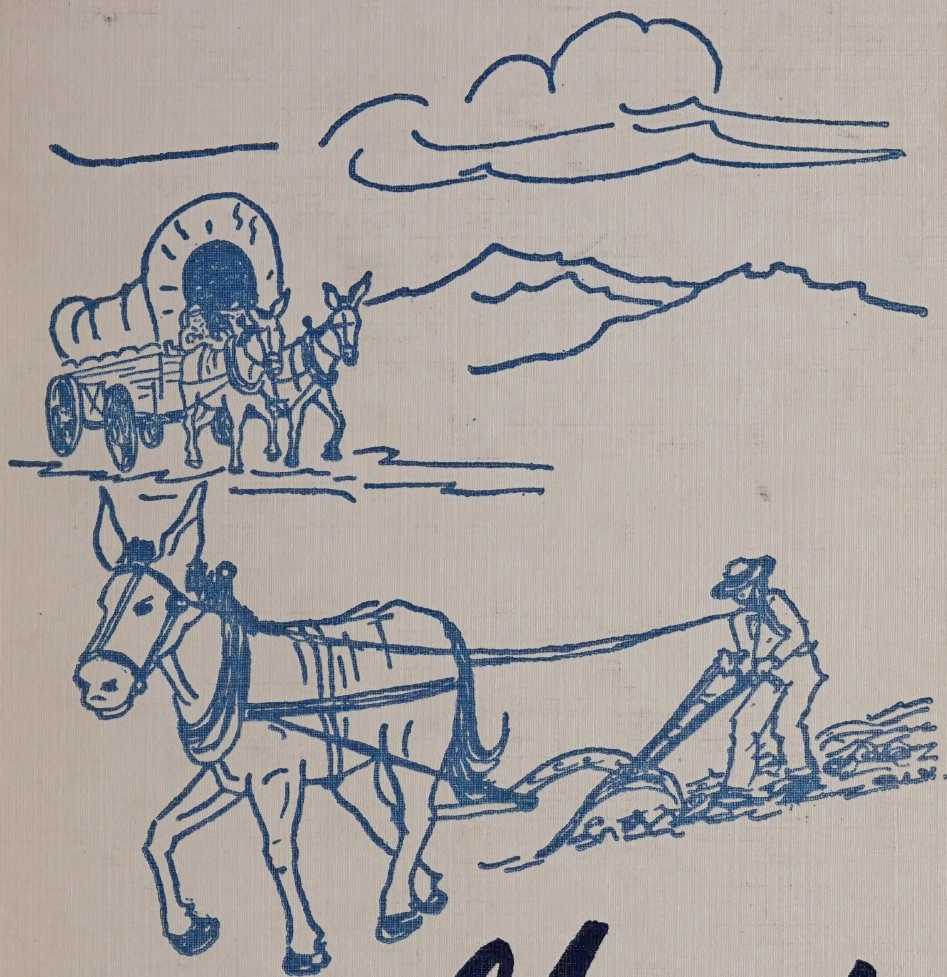




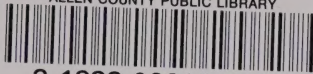
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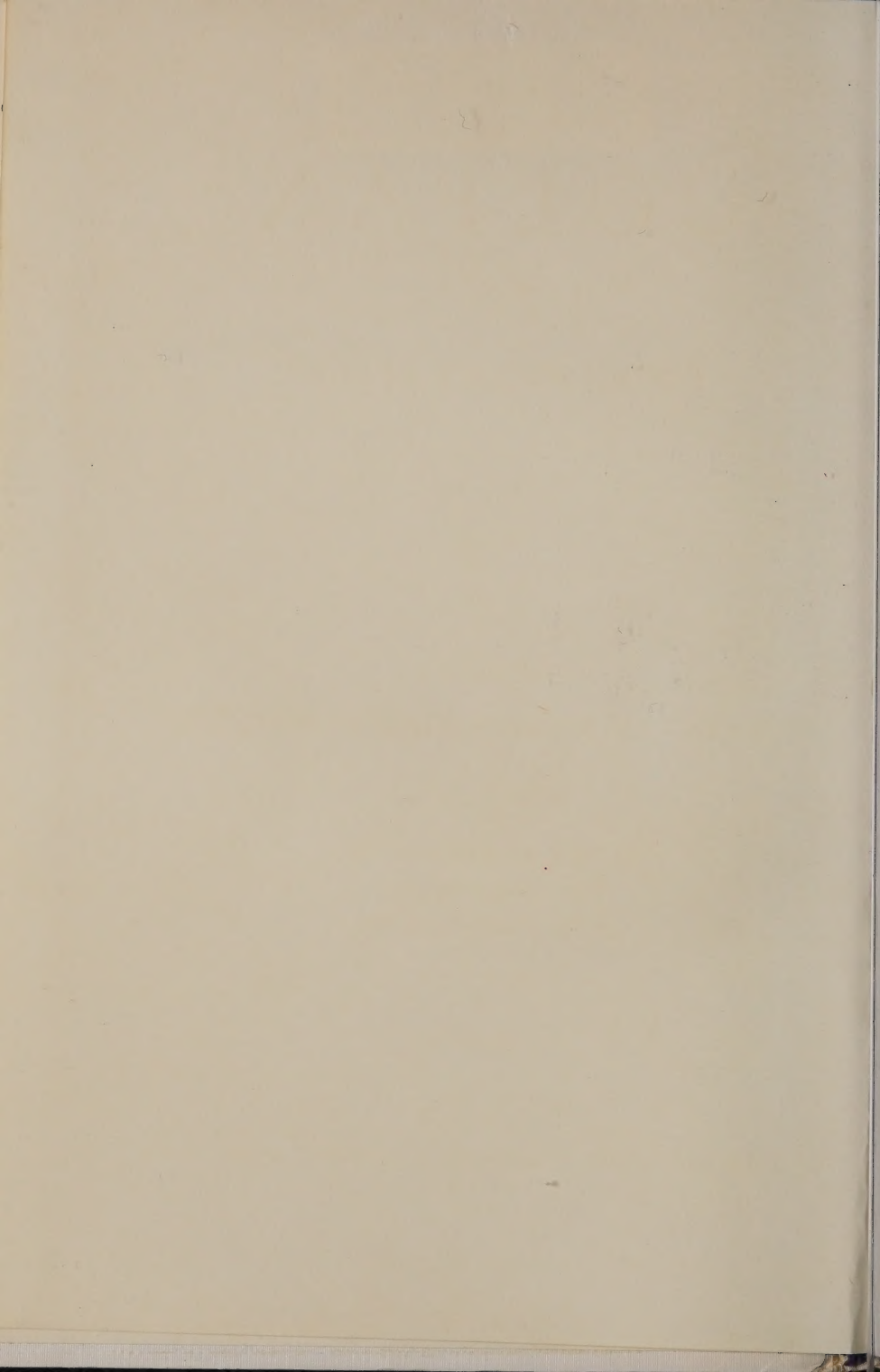
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COLFAX

EDITED BY JACK GEDDIE

Published for

THE COLFAX HOMECOMING COMMITTEE

By

HENRY L. GEDDIE CO.

358 Majestic Building

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

1963

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COVER ART BY JOHN S. CULP

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NOTES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are indebted to Jack Geddie for contributions of material and time for this publication. Mariam Fortune Hitt has given much help in reading old newspaper files and assembling material furnished by the *Grand Saline Sun*, *Wills Point Chronicle* and other early day publications.

We have used information freely from the Tunnell and Rusk genealogical accounts. Cliff Kellam's collection of writings by E. J. Steel contains most of the 1905-10 reports

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of the community news. Uncle Homer Tunnell has drawn heavily from his remarkable memory along with others.

We are guilty, of course, for sins of commission, and those of omission. We are well aware that the Methodist and Baptist Churches were important in the cultural and religious life of Tunnell's Chapel, but the early records have not been found and are not available at this time. Time and space and lack of co-operation would not permit the development of but few of the family histories which are important in the early community. It is hoped that others might possibly develop these family stories for publication.

—F. T. TUNNELL
Chairman, Colfax Homecoming
Committee

COLFAX HAD SEVERAL NAMES

By F. T. Tunnell

Soon after Van Zandt County was formed in 1848, a road was built from Canton to Garden Valley, thence to Tyler. For a number of years between 1848 and 1873, Bradfield's stage line ran over this road making three trips per week between Marshall and Dallas. A Mr. Weaver kept a post office in his home about three miles northeast of present day Colfax, known later as the "Stewart place" and now the home of Dellis Keahey. Mail arrived for the community at Mr. Weaver's post office, but upon completion of the Texas and Pacific railroad through the northern part of the country, the stage line ceased operation. Mr. Weaver passed away, and the post office was kept a short time by his daughter, then moved to the home of John Thorn, one mile west of present site of Colfax.

The post office was operated in the home of Mr. Thorn for about 25 years.

One mile east of the residence of John Thorn, and in the same period that the post office was moved to his residence, "Tunnell's Chapel" designated the place where Elisha Tunnell erected a building for the first school and church. For 25 years or more, the present community of Colfax bore both the names of Colfax and "Tunnel's Chapel." each name designating a particular area of the community.

When the post office was moved from the Thorn home

to Tunnell's Chapel, the name "Colfax" went with it, and the whole community came to be known as Colfax. The name "Tunnell's Chapel" remains only in the memory of the senior citizens of that era.

In addition to the names of Colfax and Tunnell's Chapel, a section of the community was once known as "Cold Water." This place was one mile southeast of Colfax and a short distance east of the homes of Al and Will White. Cold Water was a small log building used for religious and community meetings for a time until "Tunnell's Chapel" was erected and became the religious and civic center of the community.

By Homer C. Tunnell

History is defined as a written narrative of past facts and events affecting one or more peoples, countries, institutions, sciences, or the like, usually with comments and explanations. A man my age or even much older therefore could not give a historical sketch of the little community of Colfax, for the simple reason, that so far as I know or have been able to learn there has never been any such history made and preserved by either of the churches, the school, or any private individual. It follows then that any narrative that I might now write purporting to cover the entire life of the community from its earliest beginning until the present time would have to depend on legend or tradition for at least the first 25 or 30 years of that time.

I do not know who was the first white family to settle within what is now considered the limits of Colfax community nor how many families were within that territory when the first church was organized or the first school taught. Neither do I know which was organized first, a church or school. But I should say that the life of the community began at that time, regardless of which may have occurred first or when it was. I would fix that time at not less than eighty nor more than ninety years ago.

From the beginning of the community life until about the year 1898 the same building housed both the church and school. I don't mean by that, that they used the same building throughout all those years, for the first building, after a few years proved to be too small for the ever increasing population and they built a large tabernacle, simi-

lar in size and construction to the present one, for use in the summer time when they had the revival meeting, an annual event that was joined in by both the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches.

At about the same time or a few years later, (I would say in the late eighties of the last century), they built a large two story building the ground floor of which was used for both school and church while the upper floor was used for school and as a meeting place of any other organization other than the church.

All these buildings were south of the highway. About the year 1898 the first building to be dedicated entirely to the church and for no other purpose, was built by the Methodist Church on the same site now occupied by the present Methodist Church. Only a few years later the Presbyterians built one south of the road near the northeast corner of the cemetery. Still a few years later the Baptists built a church three or four hundred yards north of the highway. These two buildings (the Presbyterians and Baptist) are now only memories but the work done in them for the Master will live through Eternity.

Attached hereto are names of the families that have lived in the community both before and during my time. Also names of men from the community who have devoted a portion or all of their lives to the betterment of their country as ministers of the Gospel, doctors, teachers, peace officers, etc. There may be others worthy of mention as such that I do not now recall.

Any history of the community that failed to mention the old time camp meeting would be incomplete, as it was the most important annual event of the early years of the community. The old camp ground was known of from far and near, and many people from out of the community came. The old camp ground was laid off in the same manner as the old time town square, with a straight line of summer houses on the east, south and west with only one or two on the north of the tabernacle which stood near the center of the square. These summer houses were always full and sometimes there were other campers for maybe two or three days at a time but none were ever allowed to camp within the square. The preachers were usually housed in the upper room of the school house and were charged

with the responsibility of ringing the bell to awaken the campers, and while breakfast was being prepared for all who could come to the tabernacle for early morning service. There is now no visible evidence that there was ever a camp ground there and the Old Camp Meeting is only a precious memory but in their day they served as a means of robbing the Devil of many an intended victim, and made an everlasting contribution to the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth.

Another institution that was once the pride of everyone in the community was the public school, it being for many years considered the equal of any school in the country. That too is now numbered with the "has beens" without any visible evidence that it ever existed.

The first combination church and school building was called Tunnell Chapel and the community of which it was the center was known as Tunnell Chapel Community. It was never called the name of Colfax until after the first store was built there. This was some where around 55 years ago.

In the early years of the community there was a U. S. Post Office established about one mile west of the church and school and it was named Colfax. Jno. S. Thorn was named its Post Master and served continuously until the office was discontinued.

Soon after the first mercantile establishment was made, others came and as the address of the business men was Colfax it was quite natural that the town, as it had now become, should begin to be Colfax. A number of years ago the Commissioners Court of the County established a voting box in the place and named it Colfax, so now the original name is never heard any more except on occasions like this.

The cemetery might be said to have been established in 1884 as that was the year the first body was laid to rest out there. It is the only thing in neighborhood that has grown faster than we have liked to see it do. Its continued steady growth reminds us that we too must sooner or later go the way of all flesh.

A list of the families I have known during my lifetime: McPhails, Geddis, Terrys, Hallmans, Tunnells, Berrys, Kirkpatrick, Whites, Thorns, Kellams, Everetts, Pollards,

Oakes, Lopers, Allens, Hendleys, Hardegrees, McMillans, Rusks, Stewarts, Pryors, Grahams, Bailey, Gentry, Wood, Clements, Maynes, Kellis, Pitts, Box, Reaves, Hale Keahey, Matthews, Oliveres, Peels, Crims, Revnolds, Walters, Steeles, Johnsons, McMahons, Vaughns, Johns, and Huffs.

Following are names of men from the Colfax Community who have answered the call to preach: Methodist: P. R. White, John Glover Pollard, J. E. White, J. F. Stewart, J. F. Everett, G. E. Steele, C. N. Tunnell, Elmer Mayne, Edward Reaves, Presbyterian; Sam M. McPhail, W. D. Johns, Sam T. Terry, Dawson Tunnell. Baptist: B. B. Crim, Henry Vaughn, Lester Vaughn, Silas Dickerson, Jud Kellam, and Sam McNeill.

Doctors from the Colfax Community include Will H. Terry, V. B. Cozby, Jesse McMahon, T. R. Keahey. Lawyers include H. C. Geddie, Brady Gentry, Floyd Pitts, and Martin G. White.

Colfax has produced three sheriffs of Van Zandt County, including Cicero Rusk, Will Gentry, and John Kellis. The community has turned out school teachers and educators too numerous to mention.

History always has its beginning and development around a cultural center. Any history of Colfax would be incomplete that did not devote a chapter to her old camp-grounds, camp-meetings and her early public school.

The first school house, which was also used as a church, was erected by members of the Presbyterian Church, from lumber furnished by and laid on the ground by Elisha Tunnell, somewhere around the year 1870. Something like 20 years later, a two-story building was erected just a few feet to the north. The old-timers called it the New School-house. The upper story of this building was used as Grange Hall and later as a Masonic Hall.

The last session that was taught in the old school house was taught by John Cleveland Rusk and the first session in the New School house was taught by David Fisher Tunnell. The remains of these old school masters rest in the Colfax Cemetery within a "stone's throw" of the school houses in which they taught, but the influence they had on posterity will never die.

Just a few years prior to building the New School house there was erected a square structure known to the old-

timers as "The Arbor." In this building gatherings of any and all kinds were held, but it was used mainly for religious services. The Arbor was covered with red oak boards securely nailed on shingle fashion. It was floored with rough pine lumber laid on a level and firm foundation. It was walled up about four feet from the ground with rough pine lumber on the west, north and east, with an entrance in the center of the north side. The pulpit was in the center of the south side with an entrance on either side of it. The wall back of the pulpit reached from the ground to the top of the building. On each side of the pulpit the wall matched in height the rest of the walled sides.

This arbor stood in the center of the old camp ground which was laid off in the form of a town square with tents on the east, the south, the west and two on the north side of the square. These tents all had board roofs and many of them were walled all around with lumber. The square line of tents encompassed the two first school houses and the Arbor. The old Tyler and Canton road on the north formed the northern boundary of the camp ground square. These tents were owned by private families and were occupied during the annual camp-meeting. This place first bore the name of "Tunnell Chapel" in honor of Elisha Tunnell.

The first church wedding in the community was solemnized in the Old Arbor. The groom was Dr. William H. Terry, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Terry. The bride was Miss Annie Thorn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Thorn.

The second wedding in this building was that of Sidney T. (Hick) Terry, second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Terry and Miss Ann Amelia Rusk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Rusk.

The third and last wedding to be solemnized in the Old Arbor was that of Robert L. McNeil, a young practicing physician, and Miss Lula McPhail, daughter of Uncle Daniel and Aunt Belle McPhail.

In 1898 the Methodists erected a church north of the old Tyler and Canton road, on a tract of land now occupied by the present Methodist Church.

A few years later the Presbyterians built a church south of the road near the location of the present tabernacle.

Still a few years later the Baptists built their church about 150 or 200 yards north of the old camp ground on a road which extended north to Mount Gibson and Oakland. This building was destroyed by fire a few years later and the membership moved elsewhere.

Around this cultural center the community of Colfax had its beginning.

By Wentworth Manning

(Reproduced from "Some History of Van Zandt County" — Printed by the Homestead Co., Des Moines, Iowa, 1919).

COLFAX

Colfax is one of the most progressive forward-looking rural communities in Van Zandt County situated eight miles east of Canton on an excellent paved highway extending westward from Van via Canton to Kaufman. This happy prosperous community is situated near the center of the rich sandy loam fruit and vegetable growing section of the county, at the head springs of the Neches River.

What is now known as Colfax has undergone several name changes during its history. The beginning of this modern little village was the erection of a log house at or near a spring branch near a large spring, about a mile south and a little east from the present site of Colfax. This log cabin was used as a place of holding religious services, though it is likely there was never an organized church there at "Cold Water" as the place was called at that time.

In the latter part of the seventies, Elisha Tunnell raised a building situated between Van and Garden Valley and erected a church building on it, which was also used as a school building. From this time on the place was known as Tunnell's Chapel.

In 1877, the Methodists and Cumberland Presbyterian churches owned jointly a tract of land at Tunnell's Chapel on which they built a brush arbor to be used as a place for holding church services and camp meetings.

In 1885, or thereabout, a large tabernacle was erected, near sixty feet square on solid foundations, floored and bannistered and made comfortable for use in all religious services, camp meetings as well as other civil purposes.

On the east, south and west sides of the tabernacle were

erected a number of bungalows for the accommodation of those residing or camping on the grounds during camp meetings.

The name "Colfax" was given the post office established on the Canton and Garden Valley road about nine miles east of Canton. This post office was kept in the home of one Mr. Weaver, who came to Van Zandt county from some place in the north at an early date. Mr. Weaver was a Republican, and when the post office was established, he caused it to be called Colfax in honor of Schuyler Colfax of Indiana, a prominent Republican from the organization of that party in 1854. The exact date of the establishment of this post office is not known, but from facts developed in a lawsuit tried in recent years by Hon. H. C. Geddie, declares that just before the outbreak of the Civil War, citizens in the immediate vicinity were spoken of as from Colfax. This would indicate that the post office was established long before the name "Tunnell's Chapel" was supplanted.* Mr. Weaver kept the post office until his death in the late seventies when it was taken over by his daughter, Miss Lizzie Weaver, until her marriage, when it was removed to the home of John Thorn one mile west of the present site of Colfax, on the old Tyler and Canton road. The office remained in the home of Mr. Thorn for several years and was then removed to the present site of Colfax, when the name "Tunnell's Chapel" passed away. In the meantime a business house or two had been built, and the churches and school took the name the place now bears, Colfax.

In years when Colfax was at the zenith of its existence, she possessed a good brick school house and a well-organized school, three churches — Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian — and several business houses.

When the Van oil field opened in 1929 and Van built her splendid school system, she absorbed the Colfax school and the building was torn down.

Colfax still maintains her three church organizations, together with her spacious and well-appointed Presbyterian camp ground.

(*Editors Note: The Texas Almanac of 1871 lists Colfax as a Post Office with M. Weaver, Postmaster. Owlet Green is listed as Postoffice in 1883.)

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE FREE STATE

By Jack Geddie

Several historians, notably Wentworth Manning and W. S. Mills, have covered the organization and development of Van Zandt County thoroughly and effectively, delving deeply into the history of this county which once was a portion of the land belonging to the Old Mexican Municipality of Nacogdoches. The old Mexican Municipality, of which the City of Nacogdoches was the capital, ceased existence with the Texas victory at San Jacinto, and the land now occupied by the governmental sub-division of the Free State became a part of the County of Nacogdoches, in 1837. Houston County was formed from Nacogdoches County in 1837, and Crockett was the county seat of the area now incorporated into Van Zandt. Henderson County was formed in 1846 from Houston County, and Athens was the County seat. Van Zandt County was formed from Henderson County in 1848. The first county seat of Van Zandt was Jordans, later to become known as Jordan's Saline, and ultimately Grand Saline. It was later that Canton became county seat. Van Zandt later gave up 838 square miles to Wood County.

But it is not the history of the organization and development of a governmental subdivision that possesses the greatest interest of this writer. What about the 1348 souls who populated the County two years after its organization in 1850? What was their life like? How did they live, what did they do? What are some of the tales of legend and lore they could tell us if they were alive today? Some of these yarns, tales, stories of fact, and some bordering on fiction, have been handed down to us by word of mouth, others have been preserved in letters, in deeds, in the memories of old timers still living today.

To my children, driving now through the place known as Colfax, I comment: "This is the place where I was born." They look at the sparse settlement, the one store, the brick building, a remnant of a bygone era, and look oddly at me while saying to themselves: "What a blast!" in the patois of the modern youngster. They cannot see the ghosts of a day now long past, the bustling, hustling community of stores, of ginning mills, of cotton being baled, wagons parked thickly upon the streets, the hundred

and one activities of a prosperous and thriving country community in the midst of its daily transactions. The children see what they see, a wide place in the road, a place dedicated to the past, to the memory of those who lived there, worshipped there, loved there, were born there, are buried there. They cannot see the joy and sadness, the thrill and dejection, the good times and the bad, the easy times and the times of hard work, the time of sowing and of reaping. To some of us these things are important, the memory of those preceding us. We feel that our existence today is the result of the hard work, and the hardships endured and won over by our forebears.

Among the original land grants on file in the General Land Office at Austin, in the approximate vicinity of the present day place called Colfax, were those of Archibald McPhail, Daniel McNeill McPhail, Thomas McPhail, Mrs. M. M. Graham, J. Gimble, P. S. Benton, A. Gray, W. F. Sparks, Wm. B. Ochiltree, Mr. Robinson, L. Richardson, Phebe Arnold, Wm. H. Hazelwood, James Geddie (the first cousin of the writer's great grandfather, also named James Geddie, who came to Texas in 1869), L. Landers, A. Bridges, J. Fortune, J. Russell, Philip Mason, Valentine Burch, B. Flowers, J. Connor, J. Hatton, W. Jones, Wm. Gibson, J. C. Payne, L. C. White, J. W. Sansom, D. K. Young, W. Fitzhugh, J. Inman, A. J. Harsley, Robert Giles, W. R. Powell, G. De Toro, D. Towns, E. Carew, Wm. C. Anderson, C. A. Lovejoy, M. G. Whitaker, J. Richardson, S. Fowler, Wm. McGuire, Wm. Phillips, M. Gross, J. Stephenson, Willish Bruce, J. W. Guest, and others.

Abstract of Land Titles of Texas published by Shaw & Blayblock in Galveston in 1878 shows original grantees in Van Zandt County as follows: T. M. Darnell, J. W. Dickerson, James Elder, Jesse T. Evans, Phillip Ezell, John W. Elliott, Samuel Elliott, Green B. Epperson, H. H. Edwards, James Fortune, Hazel Ford, Littleton Fowler, Augustus T. Flowers, Henry Fuller, Samuel F. Fowler, Wm. R. Flowers, Willey B. Farmer, Thos. M. Farley, Wesley Fitzhugh, Benj. C. Finley, Wm. Foster, Robt. Giles, Jose Garcia, Wm. S. & James L. Gossett, John Gimble, M. Gross, W. C. Graham, G. W. Goodwin, James Gibson, James Geddie, James Groce, James Gray, Smith M. Gammon, Robt. Godfrey, E. W. & Robt. K. Gibbs, Thos. H. Gore, James

C. Wright (issued patent on land originally patented by Josiah Kennan), Wm. H. Hazelwood, Emily Clark, B. G. Hollingsworth, Wm. James, Thomas McPhail, John S. Thorn & Leo Thorn, John H. Terry, George Reeves, Geo. T. Walters, Jas. Reed, John Welch, Wm. Rose, Chas. E. Reeves, John Wilson, Wm. Roberts, Casner Weaver, Martin W. Ross, Vincent A. Wade, Robt. R. Ray, Royal T. Wheeler, J. W. Price, Alex W. White, R. K. & R. R. Prestridge, Jesse W. Wallace, Chesley Padgett, Wyatt Parham, T. N. Sparks, Samuel E. Pyle, J. H. Sanders, Levi Pruitt, Roderick J. Simms, W. R. Powell, Thos. J. Shaw, J. A. O'Neal, Jesse N. Rhodes, Isaac Malone, David L. Riley, John Lawler, Samuel H. Rhodes, David Rusk, (patented land in 1848, the year Van Zandt County was organized), C. A. Lovejoy, James Love, John W. Head, Madison Hunt, Jefferson Heard, Sam Houston, and many others.

What did these people find when they settled in Colfax, or near Colfax, after the migrations from South Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, and other eastern seaboard states, migrations that took from one to two years. Think of it! One to two full years traveling by ox-cart and horse and mule drawn wagon over mired and muddy roads of the wilderness, of the intense hardships, the cruel treatment of nature, the dangers and the perils at every bend of the path and over each horizon! We can make the trip today in three or four days. But one year, one full year, sometimes two full years of travel before the destination was reached! What fortitude it took! What hardy, tough forebearance it required to make the trip! And, how we need some of that fortitude and forebearance amid today's welfare programs from cradle to grave.

At the end of one migration from North Carolina that started in December 1850 in Fayetteville, N.C., and ended near Colfax in the latter part of 1853, with one year lay over in Mississippi, one of the participants wrote: "We are still on the land of the living," a favorite expression of those old timers. The particular participant in this migration, Mary Margaret McPhail, daughter of Thomas McPhail, one of the original land patentees near Colfax. Mary Margaret later married Alex Rosenbaum whose family came from Virginia, and wrote on December 23, 1853, from Rusk, in Cherokee County to her relatives back

in North Carolina. (The migrating party included the McPhails, the Geddies, and others, who tarried first at Rusk before deciding finally where to settle). "Father (Thomas) and brother T. R. (Thomas Robert McPhail) and Uncle James Geddie, Uncle Archibald McPhail, and James McMillan started up into the country on the 5th of this month. We will know when they return where our homes are to be."

John Geddie, son of James Geddie, the patent holder in Van Zandt, from Rusk Post Office in Cherokee in September 1853: "I think we are in a country in which we can do much better than the country that we left behind. We have not decided where we will settle yet. Where we now live is an old settled place. We can get land here for one and two dollars per acre; other places we can get public land by settling on it. A man of a family can get three hundred and twenty acres for thirty dollars and have three years to pay for it. "(Imagine, a mortgage of \$10 per year!)" "In the new settled parts of this country, there is grain a-plenty, bear and panthers, wolves, wildcats, deer and turkey and fish a plenty. In some portions of this country there are fine range lands that are very well watered. Some portions of the land have sparse water. Some of the land is well timbered, and some doesn't have enough timber to build houses or fence the land. The market is about forty miles from the Trinity River, and it is about 110 miles to Shreveport."

These families of Geddie and McPhail and McMillan and others finally chose the vicinity of Colfax for their homes. In reality, they lived nearer Owlet Green than they did Colfax, but Colfax later was to become their shopping and trading centers. In May, 1857, Mrs. James Geddie (Mary Margaret) wrote to her sister Agnes back in North Carolina: "This spring is more backward than we have had since we settled here. There came two severe freezes and a large snow after the spring opened. The snow came on the 11th of April. It was $7\frac{1}{2}$ or 8 inches deep. Corn, etc., looks very well now, as it is beautiful weather for stuff to grow. Some of the planters about here are laying by their corn. Our garden looks very well, better than any I've seen this year. I received those seed very thankfully, in-

deed, that you sent to me. Though I'm fearful that some are not going to do well. The cabbage is best.

"Mr. Cade and D. McMillan and families arrived here on the 14th of this month (May 14, 1857). They have rented a place a. Edom about 12 miles from here."

On June 10, 1857, Hiram B. Cade wrote back to North Carolina to his friend William Geddie: "Your cousin, Dougald McPhail, was married to Miss Julia Rosenbaum last Thursday, and I was at the affair. We had a real old North Carolina break down. We had some of the prettiest Texas lasses there you ever saw. Two or three of them stole my gizzard! When they have good seasons here, a man can make a living and work a third of his time. Everybody is at home everywhere they go, and that is the way I like to see people. I was dissatisfied when I first got to Texas, but since I have got acquainted with the people, I have become satisfied, and as for myself, I never expect to go back to North Carolina long at a time again. But I would like very much to have some of my old acquaintances around me. Tell the girls if they want to get married to come to Texas. I think Belle and Harriet have had three or four beaus apiece since they got here. I think they have given two or three fellows down the country. The Old Man and your Uncle Thomas (McPhail) have a fine time hunting together. They can kill plenty of deer. Your Uncle Archibald (McPhail) has changed a great deal since you last saw him. But the rest of us are the same — the same old sixpence. When I first got to Texas there was not a soul on the land that knew me except James McMillan!"

Harriet Cade wrote on May 20, 1857: "This is a very fine country. You never saw the like of cows and steers in your life. The prettiest sight I ever saw was a pen with over a 100 calves in it . . . James McMillan stayed with us two nights since we have been here. James Geddie told Hiram on Tuesday that he was coming to stay with us tomorrow night. Thomas Robert (McPhail) stayed with us two nights. Samuel Murphy has been to see us."

On October 4, 1857, John A. McPhail (son of Thomas, the one who patented the land) wrote: "You ought to come out to Texas, because we have some of the prettiest girls in Texas that you ever saw in any country, and they all

want to marry you! You could get a wife out here without any trouble at all."

The same John A. McPhail wrote back to North Carolina to his cousin James Daniel Geddie, on July 7th, 1853, describing in part the trip they took from the Mississippi River to Texas. "We were on the road just one month to a day after crossing the Mississippi River. We crossed the Mississippi on Christmas Day (1852). We crossed the river on a steam ferry boat and were in the Mississippi River bottom lands for two days, and it was the best road that we had."

In 1850, two years after the county was organized, Van Zandt has 1348 residents. By 1860, the number had grown to 3777. In 1870, the population was 6494 people. The 10th census of 1880 shows that Van Zandt was divided into five justice precincts.

The Gazetteer of the United States, written by Thomas Baldwin and J. Thomas, and published in Philadelphia in 1854 commented: "Van Zandt is a county in Northeast Central Texas, has an area of about 620 square miles (actually in excess of 800 square miles). It is drained by the sources of the Neches River and bounded on the northeast by the Sabine River. The soil produces Indian corn and sweet potatoes and butter. In 1850, the county yielded 30,920 bushels of corn, 8486 bushels of sweet potatoes, 10,040 pounds of butter, and 1640 pounds of wool. It was named in honor of Isaac Van Zandt, member of the Texas Congress. The capitol is Jordan's. Its population is 1348, of which 1308 are free and 40 slave." The Gazetteer does not list a Van, Colfax, or an Owlet Green!

Dr. John W. Fairs wrote in the 1859 Texas Almanac: "We have no vacant land (in Van Zandt County). Our oldest farms have been in cultivation for 10 years and produce now as well as at first. We trade to Shreveport with wagons, the distance being 125 miles. Cost of transportation is \$1.50 per hundred weight. Our circulation is specie. Our people are opposed to banks!"

The main post offices in Van Zandt County in 1860 were Edom, Big Rock, Barren Ridge, Hamburg, Jordan's Saline, Canton, Four Mile Prairie. It was not until around or before 1871 that Colfax is listed as a post office. The 1871 Almanac states: "The purchaser, if a settler, may

buy (a farm) on credit, and pay for his farm with the proceeds of his first crop. Our nearest distance to railroad is Hallville where our marketing is now done. There are about 40 church buildings in Van Zandt and as many schools."

According to Wentworth Manning, there was a settlement in 1836 at the head of Saline Creek about five miles east of Canton. The settlement must have been about three miles west of Colfax. The families of Yoes, Rawson, King, and others lived there in the wild and wooly wilderness. The place nearest Colfax first was known, according to W. S. Mills, as Cold Water. And, then Colfax proper first was known as Tunnell's Chapel, because Elisha Tunnell moved a building from between Van and Garden Valley to the present site of Colfax and erected a church building there. The church doubled as a school building.

Some of the first settlers of Van Zandt County, according to the U. S. Census of 1850, the first census of Texas (since it had only been a state for a couple of years) were: William R. Brown, James Cattharp, A. C. Beall, Travis Scott, Cass Edwards, John Brown, Samuel Prewitt, Abadiah Cook, a native of North Carolina, William Bates, from Georgia, Isaac Bates, also from Georgia, Jesse Ledbetter, Thomas Price, William Hogg, Archibald Campbell, from North Carolina, families by the name of Reynolds, Hightower, House, Fisher, Pearce, Cunningham, Robertson, Blair, Creagle, Wright, J. D. Wright was from Burke Co., North Carolina. Thomas Cox was from Haskin Co., Tennessee. J. A. Willhight (Willhite) was among the first settlers. Others were Joseph Neal from Kentucky, Peter Kuykendall from South Carolina, J. Y. Kuykendall, from Tennessee, William W. Tankersly, Adam Grier, Hiram Edwards, Albert Vickery, from North Carolina, John Simpkins, Walton Garrett, James Russell, B. A. Clark from Alabama, David Attaway from South Carolina, James Clark, 63 years of age, from Glasgow, Scotland, Peter Basil, Hugh Williams, Thomas Ethridge, Robert Duncan, G. F. Matthews from South Carolina, James Crockett from Missouri, H. H. Freeman from S.C., Bruce Miller from S.C., Samuel Burk from S.C., Aaron Saunders from N.C., Joel Mabry from Alabama, William Stricklin from Georgia,

William Pace from South Carolina. There were several hundreds of others, but these are a few.

The 1860 Census Van Zandt County, Edom Beat, shows John Cade 63, farmer born in N.C., Margaret Cade, 57, wife, born N.C., Margaret Cade, Henry C. Cade, 15 and 19 born in N.C. Davis Cade 34, farmer, born North Carolina, Mary Cade, 22, wife, born Georgia, and Stephen Cade 11 months, born Texas. Archibald McPhail. 49, farmer, born North Carolina, A. M. McPhail. 29, wife, born Virginia, V. C., J. D., and Emma McPhail aged 3, 1, and 3 months, born in Texas. James McMillan. 31. wagon maker, Harriett 29, born North Carolina, David McMillan 9, born North Carolina, and M. M. McMillan, 1, born Texas. Dougald McPhail, 30, farmer, born North Carolina, Julia A. McPhail 26, born Virginia, J. E. McPhail. 2, born, Texas. D. M. N. McPhail 34, farmer, born North Carolina, I. M. McPhail, age 27, born North Carolina, E. E. McPhail, 6, born Texas, J. K. McPhail, 5, born Texas, Jm. McPhail, 2, born Texas. Thomas M. McPhail 69, farmer, born North Carolina, Hector McPhail 25, born North Carolina, J. A. McPhail 20, born North Carolina, I. M. McPhail, 42, farmer, born North Carolina, L. R. McPhail 40, born North Carolina, J. A. Geddie 25, born North Carolina, A. T. Geddie 22, born Mississippi, M. E. Geddie, born Texas, one year old. James A. Geddie. 53. farmer, born North Carolina, M. M. Geddie 45, wife, born North Carolina, John Geddie 18, born North Carolina, Doug Geddie 18, born North Carolina, Thomas A., 13, born North Carolina, Wm. R., 10, born North Carolina. Hugh Berry from North Carolina, W. W. Fowler from Georgia, J. A. and Sam R. Clark from South Carolina, Davis Malone from Alabama, Isaac Malone from Georgia, A. Hardin from South Carolina, F. M. Staton from Alabama, J. D. Coffman from Alabama, Geo. B. Hamrick from Georgia, E. Rose from North Carolina, L. N. Murphy from North Carolina, I. M. Bohannon from Alabama, J. J. Stanger from Virginia, L. N. Murphy, 27, School Teacher, born North Carolina, E. V. Murphy 22, wife, born Tennessee, Thomas Ed Murphy, 1, born Texas, I. M. Barge from North Carolina, Rufus Huddle from Virginia, A. G. Hackney from Tennessee, Elias Neal from Illinois, David Martin from Louisiana, John Rosenbaum, 57, from Virginia, E. Rosenbaum, 57,

wife, born Virginia, James Rosenbaum. 21, born Virginia, S. E. Rosenbaum, 10 born Virginia. W. B. Huddle from Virginia, Dickson Slavin, from Arkansas, A. C. Heard from Georgia, E. Powell from Kentucky, Leon Cantrell from South Carolina, L. S. McSnadden from Louisiana, John Patterson from Missouri. The Jordan Saline Beat shows: R. L. Howell from Tennessee. David Russell from Alabama, Hubbard Robinson from Alabama, J. W. Wright from Alabama, E. A. Padgett from South Carolina, R. L. Howell, 30, born Tennessee, C. C. Howell, wife, born Alabama, Vida, 7, Martha, 5, and Mary, 2. Enoch Tunnell, farmer, 44, born Tennessee, Lou J., wife, 39, born Alabama, M. J., 19, female, J. B., 17, male, J. W., 16, male, Riley M. 14, male, B. M., 12, male, Wm. B., 9, born Texas, Josh G., 3 months born Texas, L. J. Heard from Alabama, Garrison Harrison from Alabama, James H. Smith from Virginia, M. E. Pace from South Carolina, and S. W. Summers from Alabama, and many others. Not all lived near Colfax, but most of the above did.

After the Civil War, with the aftermath of its destruction of the southern states, people began arriving in Van Zandt County by the hundreds. Among the new families, were another group of Geddies, headed by James Alexander Geddie, the writer's forebear, James Newton Pollard, his wife Sarah E., and his children William B., Adie E., Lorenzo Dow, Theodocia; the Elliotts from Alabama the Bryants, the Tarpleys, the Kirkpatricks, from North Carolina, Teels, Barbers, Wrights, Meltons, Raeburns, Kings, Clower, Allens, Beggs, Lynch, another group of Lybrands, Edmonds, the Robert R. Cade family from Mississippi, Harwells, Riggs, and others. In the vicinity of Colfax were William Hartley, Hugh Wise, Elisha Tunnell, Jackson Hatcher, Milliner Peace, William Gibson, John A. Yeargin, Robert Lorin, Thomas J. Riddle, Hiram Banks, George Cooper, John Quinlan, James Richardson, William Tankersley, Daniel Reed, James S. York, James H. Smith, John Smith, Rufus Simpson, James Hatton, David Young, John H. Calvery, Liston Davidson, James E. Hardy, John W. Germany, John McMillan, Lafayette Hinds, Carter Riggins, Francis Holland, Leroy Bradford. Albert Terry, Nowlins, McManis, Cades, Odoms, Large, Olivers.

1880 CENSUS REVEALS OLD SETTLERS

The 1880 United States Census of Van Zandt County reveals names of old-timers in the Colfax-Owlet Green area. During 1880, in Precinct 1 was Terry Henderson and his wife Sadie, and children Paralou, Mary, Ella, James, John and Lincoln; Simson Castleberry born in Georgia, and his wife Lou, born in Tennessee, and their children William T., Alice F., Suzanne, Marion, Peter, Larro, and his niece Minnie Baird and his nephew Edwin Baird; William Hardegree, born in Georgia, and his wife Ann, born in Kentucky, and living with them were Charles Jood, 9 years, adopted, and Sarah Brown, who was born in Mississippi; Joseph Cooper, born in Tennessee, his wife, Martha, born in Arkansas, and their children, Mary J., Joanne, Martha, William, Lou, and Sarah; Samuel Wright, born in Georgia, his wife Martha, born in Alabama, and their children, Sousa, Alvey, and Cornelia, and his stepdaughters, Elizabeth and Martha McLaughlin, born in Alabama; Joshua Everett, born in Alabama, and his wife Elvira, also born in Alabama, and his children Augustina, and Thomas A.; William Weeks, born in Tennessee, and wife Mary, born in Missouri, and Sarah, his daughter; Elisha Tunnell, born in Tennessee, his wife Nancy, born in Alabama, and children Ampias, and John R.; John Flatt, born in Missouri, his wife Mandy, born in Alabama, and children William, John, Alice, and Mary; William Tuttle, born in Mississippi, his wife Rubing, born in Mississippi, and children Josephine, Clinch, Joseph, and Eugene, and living with the Tutttles were his daughter Rebecca, and her husband, Calhoun Monk; Thomas Carter, born in Mississippi, his wife Isabelle, born in Alabama, and his children Jackson and Solomon; Nick Cole, born in South Carolina, his wife, Margaret, and children Marion C., David, Leonard, and Richard E.; Andrew Dooling, born in Arkansas, his wife Carolina, born in Mississippi, and his son Lonzo, born in Mississippi; James Hubbard, born in Texas, his wife, Theodocia, born in Texas, and their children, Mona, and Bishop; Thomas McCellan, born in South Carolina, his wife Martha, born in Georgia, and children Theodore, Thomas, Robert, and James; Thomas Slaughter, his wife Mary, and children Mary and William; James J. High, born in Tennessee, his wife Eliza, born in Alabama, and his children, John W.,

Arizona, Ambrace, Mary A., William, Isabella, Nathaniel, Lilia; Elijah Vinson, born in South Carolina, his wife Darlin, and his children Lucinda. and Elijah; Clythe Hubbard, born in Alabama, his wife Eliza, born in Illinois, and children Martha K., Clarinda, John W., William W., Albert C., and Margaret; Mary Smith, born in Tennessee, and her children, Thomas and William Smith; George Henry, his wife Susan, and daughter Hattie; Newton Franks, born in Louisiana, his wife Etta, born in Mississippi, and children Zoma, and Pearce; and living with Franks were his niece, Mary Gillin and nephews, James and John Gillin; John S. Thorn, then 29 years old, born in Texas, his wife Mariam, 21, also born in Texas, and his children Annie, 3 years old, and Charles, 9 months old, and living with them were Frank Stewart, and Charles Hill, who worked for Thorn; John C. Rusk, 50, born in Georgia, his father having been born in South Carolina and his mother in South Carolina, his wife Cornelia, 34, born in Alabama, and his children, Margaretta, Ann, and Alexander Rusk, all born in Texas; Alexander Kellam, 36, born in Alabama, his mother and father having been born in Georgia, his wife Cornelia A., 29, born in Texas, and their children, Julia, John H., Laney F., Thornwell, James, and William; Melissa and Frances Sparks, their cousin, Jesse Tomlin, and their farmhand, James Millikin; Svdny Nichols and daughter Lilly J.; Robert H. Terry, 27, born in Alabama, Sallie O., his wife, and daughter Lucy L., and his hand, James Dawson; Hiram Hardigree, born in Georgia, his wife Emeline, born in North Carolina, and their children Martha, Mary, Daniel, Myrah, Adda, Franklin, William, and Mahala; John D. Pryor, his wife, Emen, and son John; Thomas Rusk, 27, born in Texas, his wife, Mary R., born in Texas, and daughter Anna M.; Robert Weaver, born in Tennessee, and his wife Abi, and living with them, Willis Wood; Whit Hardigree, born in Texas, his wife, Sarah F., born in Alabama, and their son William W., and living with them, James M. Steed; Joseph Faulk, his wife, Mary E., and children Mary L., Thomas L., William A., Rosa, and Lotta; Ance Gibbs, his wife Wincy, and daughter Minnie; Pleasant Worsham, born in Alabama, his wife, Susan, and children Mary E., Jerry P., Adda A., Virginia F., and Sallie; Benjamin Worsham, and

his wife Sarah J., and his children Fannie, James, Telisha, John, Jerry, Lizzie, and Ruth; Landrum Conley, born in Georgia, his wife Ruthy, born in Alabama, and children Ransom and Landrum; Henry High, born in Tennessee, and his wife Sarah, and children, Martha J., Robert E. Alexander, Cynthia, Mollie, Maggie, and Theodosia; Columbus Mallard, wife Viola, and children Thomas, Mary, Belle, and James; James W. Barnett, wife Susan F., and children John, Mary and James; Perry McWilliam, wife Elizabeth, and son, Goda; Jesse Samples, his wife Nancy, and children Ara, Alice, Aritha, and Nancy; Burnett Brittain, born in Alabama, his wife, Elizabeth, and children Nancy E., Viola, and Essie; John M. Tuttle, born in Texas, his wife, Martha, born in Arkansas, and children William and Margaret; William Hubbard, his wife Evalina, and sons John and David, and living with them were grandson William Robertson and granddaughter Mary Robertson; Wyatt Daniel, born in Kentucky, his wife Ann, born in Kentucky, and his children William, Sousin, Julius, Wyatt, Joe and Valentine. His mother, Wynie Daniel, born in Virginia, where her mother and father were born, was living with the family. Frank King, born in Alabama, and his wife, Mary E., also born in Alabama, was another couple living in the Colfax area, along with James A. Randall, born in Alabama, his wife Annie, born in Tennessee; Thomas Darnell, born in Georgia, his wife Jane, born in Mississippi, and their children, John T., James A., Walter E., and living with them was Susie Carpenter; Thomas Brown, his wife Martha, and their son Arthur; John Kellum, born in Georgia, his wife Cynthia, and their children, Henry H. William F., Georgia, James, and Jack; John Henderson, born in Missouri, his wife Savannah, born in Tennessee, and their children William M., and Francis D.; Charles Jergins, his wife Martha, and son Edward M.; Alexander Jones, and wife Josie; Benjamin Pollard, born in Arkansas (this is according to the 1880 Census, but this was Benjamin Glover Pollard, Jr., and he was born in Mississippi. His father was born in South Carolina, and his mother was born in Alabama), his wife Alice C. Pollard, born in Mississippi, and their children John Glover Pollard, Jewell Pollard, Mary Pollard, and Elvira Pollard; James R. Box, born in Alabama, his wife Sarah M., and children Charlie

O., Mattie E., Mary E., Lou M., William B., and Ada T.; William Reynolds, and his wife Carmelia; J. R. Kirkpatrick, minister of the Gospel, born in North Carolina, his wife, Isabella, born in South Carolina, and his children Hugh Y. Kirkpatrick, born in North Carolina, Lou N. Kirkpatrick, born in North Carolina, Bellroy Kirkpatrick, born in North Carolina, and Maggie Kirkpatrick, born in North Carolina.

Colfax, during the 1880 census, was in the corners of about five census precincts. Today, the community gets mail in several rural routes, emanating from Canton, Van, Grand Saline, Ben Wheeler. Some of the people herein listed as living in the vicinity of Colfax were possibly not in that community at all, because of the difficulty of pinpointing the location from the various precinct lists in the 1880 census. For this reason Allen J. Riley may have lived in Canton, because he is listed as Editor of the Paper, along with his wife Martha, his daughter Sallie, a printer, and his son Judson Riley, also a printer.

Others in the Colfax area were E. J. Graham, born in Alabama, his wife M. M., and his son, T. W.: and living with E. J. Graham were his nieces, M. M. Geddie, and Evelie Geddie; and his mother Mrs. B. Graham, born in Alabama; T. B. McPhail, born in North Carolina, his wife Margaret, and their children M. I., Mary E., Anna E., and Vinette; Tom White, his wife Martha J., and children Louis H., and John O.; E. G. White, born in North Carolina, his wife Texana, and their children Julius M., and Edgar; Thomas Tunnell, born in Alabama, his wife Mary E., born in Georgia, and children Emma B., and Dosa; Josiah Tunnell, born in Alabama, and his wife Nancy; James A. Geddie, born in North Carolina, his wife Elizabeth, born (here listed South Carolina, but this is inaccurate, because she was born at Havana, Alabama—they are the great grandparents of the editor), and their children, William, John, Wesley, and Henry Clay; James Dobbin McPhail, and visiting him that day were his sister Virginia (McPhail) Gentry, her husband Benjamin W. Gentry, and their children Mary E., Minnie S.; and living with J. D. McPhail were B. P. Gentry and Christopher Will, farm hands; visiting at the J. D. McPhail home that day the census was taken in 1880 was James A. Geddie, Sr., who settled Owlet Green

in 1853; Jesse Steel, and his wife Mae; John Steele, his wife Annie, and daughters Erna, and Nannie; E. Kirkpatrick, farmer, born in Alabama, and his children, Anzie, Robert, H. T., and J. A.; James W. Berry, his wife Cynthia and their children H. T., George W., William W., James, and Henry T.; Robert Berry, his wife Mahulda, and with them on the census day were their daughter Catherine, who married a Palmer, their granddaughter, Julia M., Palmer, and their grandson, John Kirkpatrick: E. T. Berry, his wife Priscilla, and their daughter, Mary E.: S. P. Berry, his wife E. A.; John Geddie, his wife Sallie, and their children Hetty and Thomas; Kit Everett, born in Alabama, his wife Margaret, and their children Edward Y., Mahalia, Ester E., and Emily E.; Frank Everett, born in Alabama, his wife, Sarah, born in Alabama, and their children, Judson F., Brazora, William B., Simion O., and Artie M.; living with them was his mother-in-law Eliza Walters, born in Alabama; Joshua Hallman, born in South Carolina, his wife Catherine (Geddie) Hallman, born in North Carolina, and their son Samuel, then 12 years of age; Marion McWilliams, and his wife Mary A.: Charles M. Walters, his wife Pollie, and their children Mollie, Licutus, Margaret, and Fannie; R. N. Keahey, born in Alabama, his wife P. M., and their children Joyce A., Susan M., Louis and George G.; William Allen, born in Tennessee, his wife Elizabeth, born in Kentucky, and their children, Mandy, Mary, Melinna, Farrell, William Jasper, Nancy, and John A.; William Bailey, born in Georgia, his wife Amanda, and their children Katie, Cornelia, and Cora: R. Odom, Minister of the Gospel, born in Mississippi, his wife S. E., and children Susan, William R., and Jane; J. H. Huff, born in Illinois, his wife Rosana, born in Arkansas, and their children John H., Mary S., Stephen S., and Charlie J., Margaret A., Ella M., and Texana; S. W. Huff, born in Tennessee, his wife Bethenia, and their children Mattie, Mary, and Fannie; Thomas Archibald Geddie, born in North Carolina, his wife, Mary F., and children Rosa, and a baby; A. T. Berry, born in Alabama, his wife Martha R., and children Ella Lee, and Thomas C.; F. A. Wood, and wife M.; Thomas J. Wood, and wife Nancy, and their children William, Laura, and Mollie; J. M. Wood, his wife T. C., and their children, James E., Thomas W.,

Charity S., and Charlie W.; C. R. Graham, born in Mississippi, his wife R. M. Graham, and their children, A. S., J. J., S. C., R. A., and M. M.; Dan Hallman, farmer, born in South Carolina, (a brother to Joshua Hallman); John Steele, his wife Annie, and their children Ema, and Nannie; S. B. Loper, born in Mississippi, and his wife K. A., and their children V. R., Absolom M., James B., L. A., Julius J., Joel P., Chapman P., Chapman S., Archie S., Fice C., and Jerme D.; John Terry, born in South Carolina, his wife Martha, born in Georgia, and their children, J. P., W. D., F. A., W. S., and M. C.

OLD CAMP MEETINGS ARE SACRED MEMORIES

By Florence Hallman Hooper

(Slightly edited without changing context — published in Dallas Morning News)

One of the most sacred memories of my young girlhood is of the old camp meetings of years ago. It was my privilege to enjoy those meetings during the years 1893-1900 at old Tunnell's Chapel in Van Zandt County. The standard of living, materially speaking, had not then advanced to its present stage. Most people were poor, hardworking farmers. Cotton sold at three cents. Roads were deep sand beds. There were no autos, very few buggies, just farm wagons drawn by plow horses or mules; few church buildings, and if there had been, they were too hot and stuffy for people who had spent all year from dawn 'til dark six days a week up until camp meeting time — July or August when crops were laid by — out in the fields, to crowd into them. So they built a brush arbor each summer and settled for a week or so in the crude shelters encircling the arbor to enjoy a real spiritual feast, and it was wonderful!

We did not have a tent but my grandparents, parents, sister, brother and I would pile into the wagon early in the morning and make the four miles behind the plodding team in time for morning preaching services. Before night-fall we'd have to get back to the farm to attend to the evening chores, but sometimes I would be allowed to spend the night with Great Uncle John Geddie's kind family in their tent. At such a time it would be my privilege to attend the grove meeting late in the afternoon. For this

meeting all the womenfolk would withdraw to a pretty spot all cleared of underbrush a little way from the camp circle and the men to a similar spot on the other side of the camp, for a prayer and testimonial meeting. And, it was at one of these sacred gatherings that I was brought to realize my need of a personal Savior.

From the grove meeting to the arbor for the night service to listen to some saint point to the Way of Life. Then to our tents to lie down there in that sweet country atmosphere and fall asleep to the chirps of locusts and katydids. And, sometimes there was more heavenly music as when dear old Brother Frank Everett's heart would become so filled with the Holy Spirit it would overflow with deep soul-stirring heavenly laughter that could be heard all over the camp. Everyone listened with quiet awe for Heaven was very close to us as the Holy Spirit swept out over the camp from the overflowing soul of Uncle Frank. Oh, the memories!

Next to Uncle John's Camp was that of Brother White whose two splendid sons, Pink and Earl, later entered the Methodist itinerancy. Then, there was Great Uncle Daniel and sweet silver haired Aunt Belle McPhail, and their fine sons and daughters who lived so near no service, but most of them were there. They were Presbyterians and their youngest son, Sam, naturally entered the ministry of that church.

And that fine upstanding Methodist, H. C. Geddie of Canton, was there. He loved those camp meetings, too. And the grand old Methodist preachers, Brother Everett of the glad hallelujah laugh, and old Brother Smith of the Cream Level community, too feeble to stand, so he sat in his old arm chair to preach, and the Presbyterian minister, Brother Dawson, and his dear wife. Saints long gone home. All the way from the City of Dallas came a dear old soul, old Brother Thompson, and oh, the joy that would radiate from his fine old face at finding himself once more among that group of happy sons and daughters of the Most High. And so on, ad infinitum.

Of course, anyone who has made any sort of study of the Lord's work knows that the devil has always tried to horn in and cause as much embarrassment to the cause of Christianity as he and his minions could possibly ac-

comply, but they didn't get very far at Tunnell's Chapel, or at countless other camp meetings. I remember that one night a bunch of silly youngsters from some town came whirling down in their rubber tired buggies and were giggling around the edge of the arbor, but some of the elder men very promptly advised them to behave themselves or go home. The advice was effective. No disorder was allowed about that camp.

In later years, old Tunnell's Chapel became a thriving little rural community. Living conditions improved, better roads, better transportation facilities. The town built churches and employed fulltime ministers, changed its name to Colfax sometime after a post office was established. And, the camp meeting became a sacred memory.

E. TUNNELL, TRADE ACCOUNTS

(The following data was taken from an old notebook of accounts of Elisha Tunnell which was discovered by his granddaughter, Mrs. Birdie Tunnell Wilson. It is given as information on prices of goods and people in the community in 1880 to 1883.)

As reflected by the accounts, Elisha Tunnell traded and did business with Psalm Holt, D. G. Towne, S. T. Hill, J. S. Thorn, Bob Patrick, J. T. Henderson, Lewie Holt, T. Stewart, "Jeter Gin," Win Inglet, Tut Matthews, Richard Scoggin, Milton Wright, John White, R. B. Prather, D. F. Burton, Jim Wright, Henry Holt, James Clark, E. Terry, Joel Mosley, A. S. Tunnell (his son, "Uncle Amp") and N. A. Hazlewood.

Beef was sold at two and one-half cents per pounds. An account of \$13.11 with D. G. Towne was settled for "1 buck skin," presumably a horse. S. T. Hill bought two "fire dogs" for \$3.00, and "H Beef, \$1.88." Corn meal, also, corn, was priced at 75 cents per bushel.

Elisha frequently loaned cash to his neighbors as part of his service in community trading. Shoes were \$1.50 pair, bridles \$1.00, a saddle for \$12.00.

A yoke of oxen was sold for \$35.00, a cow and calf at \$12.00, 1 sow, \$2.00, 131 lbs. of cotton \$6.15, 263 lbs. of pork \$15.78, 90 lbs. of salt \$1.25, 1 pork hog \$11.00, a pair of shoes \$1.75.

Bob Patrick bought corn from Elisha, 15 bushels for

\$7.50, a charge is made "to two days work \$1.00" (we don't know who did the work). Patrick assumed a debt of \$16.38 for "det on Townes" and bought beef at two and one half cents per lb.

J. T. Henderson bought one cow and calf, \$15.00, borrowed \$2.10, bought beef at three cents per lb., bacon at 2½ cents per lb.

"May the 28, 1880:

I have received 50 dollars to be replaced in a short time. Al Kellam."

"Received on the above; 40 dollars, June the 1, '80—A. T."

Al Kellam was the grandfather of Cliff Kellam and the donor of the land where the churches of Colfax now stand. A. T. was presumably Uncle Amp. A later payment of the ten dollar balance must have been made as the page bears the notation "paid in full."

R. B. Prather bought "100 quartridge (ammunition?) \$1.00" and "quartridge 75 cents."

J. M. Wright assumed debts of \$15.00 for Tankersly and \$1.50 for J. Wright. He bought pork at five cents per lb., was advanced \$1.75 cash for the preacher, bought beef at three cents per lb.

"J. S. Thorn Dr to E. T. for Land \$115.00 bearing ten per cent from date this Dec. 26, 1881. Received on the above 75.00 seventy-five dollars Aug. 15. Paid in full."

On March the 1, 1882, D. F. Burton drew \$15.00 cash at "12 pc with above on 4 head of cattle." The item, from notations, was settled at an adjusted interest rate of nine per cent, the principal and interest being paid with beef at five cents per lb. "E. Terry Dr to E. Tunnell, Boot in horse swap, \$35.00 due Nov. the first, 1881."

"J. S. Thorn Dr to E. T., May the 1st, 1883, 70 dollars gold at 12 per cent interest."

"David Burton to Five Dollars & 70 cts at 12 per cent from date, March the 1, 1883." Burton also bought ten bushels of corn in 1883, \$6.00, total for the year of \$11.70.

A. S. Tunnell was advanced various amounts of cash totaling \$59.75 which included "to cash \$1.00 for the preacher."

In 1880 a "pear of boys shoes" was eighty cents, a hat

75c. Three yds. "jeans" was \$1.35, 50 lb. flour \$2.00, a surveying fee was \$1.00, a deed was \$1.00.

In 1881, "to 1 pair shoes \$1.00, to 15 lbs. lint cotton \$1.50, to 50 lbs. flour \$2.25, to 1 broom 25c, to 1 stove \$6.00, to 10 yds. hickory \$1.00."

In 1882, charges made included "to Domestic and Bonnet \$1.00," 4 yds. cloth \$1.00, to 1 sack flour \$1.87, to tax on land 40c, to 4 yds. jeans, 40c, \$1.60, to 2 pair shoes \$2.50."

In 1883, charge items included "14 yds. prints \$1.00, 1 half barrel flour \$3.50, to 1 wheel \$4.50, to 4½ yds. cotton ades \$1.00, to tobacco and thread 55c, to 9 yds. ticking and soda \$1.00."

FROM THE RECORDS OF THE COLFAX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"The church was organized as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church on November 4th, 1876, by H. B. W. Burns. The Rev. Mr. T. M. Leonard was also present."

William Dawson was the first pastor of the new church, serving from April 1, 1877-1886. He was succeeded by W. H. McClurkan, 1887-1891; William Dawson, 1892-1900; Sam M. McPhail, 1901-1905; J. J. Tarlton, 1906-1907; William D. Johns, 1907-1912; J. J. Schwab, 1912-1915; T. J. Means, 1915-1917; J. B. Kerr, 1918-1920.

G. W. C. Self served as pastor 1920-1921; Perry Dawson, 1921-1922; W. C. Fleetwood, 1922-1925; T. F. Vines, 1927; Cletus Pippin, 1928-1937; W. E. Everhart, 1938-1941; Cletus Pippin 1941-1946; Thomas B. Foster 1949-1951; W. Marion Griffin, 1952; Edwin Ray.

The first elders were installed November 4, 1876. They were Allen McCaskel, James McMillan, and James Beggs. They were followed by James Alexander, 1877; John Geddie, 1878; D. B. West and D. G. G. Towns, 1879; David Burton and D. Mc N. McPhail, 1882; A. P. Terry, 1885; J. A. McPhail and J. H. McMillan, 1887; S. T. Terry, 1892; D. S. McPhail, 1896; J. A. McPhail, 1898; Samuel Wilson and W. H. Terry, 1903; T. H. Geddie, 1913.

B. F. Wilson was installed as an elder in the church in 1921; Tommie D. Geddie, 1928; Karl D. Dove and John W. Rash, 1934; S. W. Wilson and D. S. Geddie, 1939; T. J. Pippin, Doyle Dove, John T. Rash and Jeanette Wilson, 1949; W. B. Wilsen, Mrs. Aline Cade and Marlin Austin,

1950; Jesse Odom, 1952; S. K. McPhail, 1955; Joe R. Dove, Noble A. Austin and Jenneth Burns, 1956; Mrs. B. F. Wilson, 1960; and David McPhail, 1961.

The first deacons in the church, H. N. McPhail and J. Hallman, were installed in 1881; E. N. McPhail, 1887; T. H. Geddie, S. M. McPhail, 1892; D. S. McPhail, 1894; P. W. Shields, A. K. Rusk and T. L. McPhail, 1899; Robert F. Wilson, 1905; S. D. Terry and L. D. McPhail, 1913; R. J. Kellam, 1921; S. W. Wilson, and John W. Rash, 1928; Douglas S. Geddie and Robert Goode, 1934.

The entire register of communicants is much too long to publish in this limited amount of space, but a list of early members follows; together with the date each joined: T. L. McPhail and Margaret F. Geddie, 1879; Thomas H. Geddie, 1881; Lula A. McNeil, 1886; Sallie Everett, 1887; S. T. Terry, 1891; Idel Kellam, 1892; Nannie C. McPhail, 1896; Maggie Geddie, 1897; D. Arthur Geddie, 1899; Samuel Wilson, A. A. Terry, Tommie D. Geddie and M. A. Clower, 1901; Maud Rusk, 1902; Robert F. Wilson, Sadie Wilson, R. J. Kellam and Ben F. Wilson, 1903.

Other members are A. W. Rusk, 1904; Grace Wilson, 1906; Douglas S. Geddie and Austin McPhail, 1908; S. W. Wilson, Shad McNeil and W. L. Glower, 1909; Martin Geddie and James Couch, 1910.

SCRATCH PAD OF THE PAST

By E. M. Crestman

Following are excerpts from "Scratch Pad of the Past," by E. M. Crestman. The article appeared in two installments in 1952 in the Grand Saline Sun.

Before looking for another school beginning in the fall of 1893, a friend of mine and I teamed our horses to a wagon and with my sister and two other young ladies we went to Tunnells Chapel to the old time camp meeting which was in progress and someone came to me and told me that there was an opening in the school as an assistant to Prof. Fisher Tunnell and asked me to apply for the place.

He found one of the trustees and I had a talk with him, and to my surprise he remarked that he had heard good reports from my success as a teacher and would be glad to see the others and pass on the application as soon

as possible. It would have been foolish for anyone to have pressed for a business meeting during a period of preaching and worship of those days, and knowing that there were a number of applicants for the place we came away and I did not even talk with the other trustees . . .

I had forgotten altogether about leaving without withdrawing my application and was very much surprised but on the other hand it was an opportunity to work with one of the best teachers and in the most foremost of communities in the country, and I sent them word that I would be on hand . . .

I had formerly arranged to board at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hendley, but after arriving there, he informed me that things had changed and he had secured a place for me with his nearest neighbor, Mr. and Mrs. Dobbin McPhail some nearer the school.

When I arrived at the school house and met Mr. Tunnell, we immediately went to work, and I found him to be one of the most agreeable and efficient planners and teachers I had ever met. To my surprise though, he informed me that the trustees had so ordered that I was to take the lower floor with the boys and that he would take the girls on the second floor. They had decided it was not well to put a young single man in charge of so many beautiful young ladies.

It was quite a task to take over fifty or more boys and young men of all ages from the beginners to those as old or older than I, among them being Shad and Sam McPhail, Hick Terry, Pink and Earl White, and some younger ones like Homer Tunnell and a few of his brothers and John Kellis, Buddie Rusk and too many even if I could enumerate by name at this time.

It wouldn't be well to name the young ladies of that day for it would be revealing their ages and there are some now living in Grand Saline.

It is wonderful to recall those of a community which has produced so many noble young people of high callings as preachers and doctors and staunch citizens. It was a great community and when I visit them at their annual homecomings, I miss many of them but when I think of the many other communities or sections of the country which have been blessed by the descendants of the Everetts,

Whites, Gentrys, Rusks, McPhails, and of Tunnell Chapel community, now known as Colfax.

My home with Mr. and Mrs. McPhail was enjoyable, and Levi and his brother and Nat Henderson, three lively young boys were just at the right age to make life interesting, also, more interesting was the announcement a few weeks before the Christmas holidays of the man of the house that he had caught a large 'possum and was fattening it for serving which they served a few days before Christmas. I had never eaten 'possum but had often heard of 'possum and taters being the finest dish ever, and when that dish was brought to the table it looked so delicious that I just had to try it. My! what a dish! Nothing ever tasted better to me, but I guess I just over did it, and have never wanted 'possum since.

School dismissed on Friday at noon for the Christmas holidays and I had my horse there ready and immediately mounted and headed for home via Canton where I secured the necessary license and arrived home about night. The next morning I was in Grand Saline before day where I boarded the early train for Wills Point where I purchased my wedding suit for my marriage the next day.

It was around noon when I arrived back in Grand Saline and I went to the Henderson Hotel which at that time occupied the site where the Bank now stands and informed the bride to be that everything was in readiness and that I would be on hand at 10 o'clock sharp the next morning to take her away, but it was raining the next morning which delayed us some and while I and my best man, Henry Geddie, were waiting, my sister was still delaying the others till we finally took the buggy and left. Sister finally got ready and arrived in time to be with the party at the ceremony. The preacher immediately left for his congregation which was in waiting at the old school building just a block away.

We went back to the Old Camp ground for their annual Christmas services the next day after our wedding and Mr. Tunnell informed me that he had a room in his home for us for the remainder of the school which proved to be very convenient and useful to us in counseling and preparing all school work.

There early in the Spring of '94, while living with Mr.

Tunnell, he and I went to Owlet Green on Saturday morning to vote in a County Prohibition election and found Mr. John Stewart waiting for someone to come and assist in holding the election, so we were engaged to do the work, it being my first vote which I gladly cast against the saloons.

My wife became ill some time before school closing and I finally had to bring her back home for treatment and at the close of the public school, I returned home and Shad McPhail took my place with Mr. Tunnell in a six-week subscription term. I had enjoyed a very successful and pleasant career of teaching with one of the finest men and in the most noted communities of the country.

YESTERDAY

By Henry Clay Geddie, Lawyer

(As preserved in letters written to his great-nephew, Jack Geddie)

They brought us to Texas during November and December, 1869, from Sumter County, Ala., where your granddad, John, and I, and my other brothers were born. My sister Asaleen was born in Green County. We settled where the town of Owlet Green later sprang up, and moved from there to where your Dad was born two years later (near Colfax.)

John, your granddad, was always alert, quick, active, impulsive and industrious. He was ambitious to make money and was a good trader from his childhood. He was rather proud and wanted to make a nice appearance, and did. He was one of the handsomest young men in the country, and I have heard numbers of people say that he and your Grandma, Addie, were the handsomest couple they ever saw tie in matrimony.

Unfortunately he always felt like he did not have time to go to school. He was a fair student when going and kept up, not being at all dull, but he did not value "book learning," as they used to say, and hence did not go very far in that way.

He had chills most of the time during his early boyhood, his spleen was enlarged, and he was sick a lot, but such was his penchant for work that he would lie down in the corner of the fence row and shake off a chill and then go on with his work. Both of us were puny the same time

once. Doctors were not handy and when we got one he just shot the insides out of us with calomel, blue mass, or may apple, then left us a lot of quinine pills as large as a small marble to take. Mother got tired of this treatment, and said she was going to give us some iron. Since she could not buy tincture of iron such as she wanted, declared that she would make it in the form of what the pre-civil war people called "Vinegar and Nails." That is, she put nearly a half pound of new nails in a twelve ounce bottle of strong vinegar. After several weeks, she took it down one day when we were both feeling low and stood us up against the shutter of the kitchen door and got down her favorite remedy, which was a kind of pale, poisonous looking blue, all the nails having been eaten up by the vinegar. I always had to serve as guinea pig, and only after me would the others venture to try the remedy. Mother poured out a tablespoon full of the villainous concoction and told me to open my mouth, which I obligingly did. She poured it down. It was so transcendently awful, insofar as taste, fire and brimstone are concerned, that I just leaned back against the door unable to say a word, even if I had wanted to. But, I wanted to see John's reaction, and hence just held my breath and kept the blaze from breaking out until she had poured John's quota down him. At least part of the way down.

Before it could get down, or before it even started down, John was jumping up and down, spitting and cussing, while mother swiped him over the head with the spoon for using naughty language. Finally, she reduced him down to a milder state of rebellion and told him that he had not swallowed much of it, and had better take some more, because he might get sicker and die. John herewith flatly stated that he would take his chances on dying, but that he would die and go to hell before he would swallow another drop of that poisonous stuff.

John got over his chills and fever and finally grew up to weigh about 150 pounds and was five feet ten inches tall. He was the best dancer, hoe-down and clogging, in the country. He was very popular with the girls, and boys alike. He would take a drink once in a while, but I never knew him to be drunk. There was not a better hearted man than he. Especially, so considered those who were

closely associated with him. There was an old Presbyterian preacher at Colfax who worked for John and lived with him quite a while a few years after he and your Grandma were married. He has frequently told me that John Geddie was one of the best men he had ever known in his life and many people have told me that since I came back to this county.

One night John and Fayette Clower were coming in from some place and passed the home of Heck McPhail and his sister Isabella, and his niece, Margaret Ann Rosenbaum. The cows did not come up off the range in time to be milked that day, and Margaret left her milk bucket on top of the gatepost only a few feet from the road and not over twenty feet from the house. John and Fayette had a small vial of liquor with them, partly consumed, and seeing the bucket glitter in the moonlight, they decided it would be quite the proper thing to shoot it, which they did. They stopped at our home and went to bed in a room adjoining the one in which I slept. They thought I was asleep. But I wasn't. I knew they had had a drink or two, and they got to talking about shooting that bucket. The longer they talked the more conscious stricken they became. They admitted no gentleman would have ever thought of treating three helpless and harmless people that way, and began abusing themselves worse than the injured people would have abused them. They began to conjure up some way to make amends, but could not confess without admitting a violation of the law in several particulars. Finally, Fayette told John: "I tell you what we can do. We can go help Heck. He has been sick and his crop is about to ruin for the lack of cultivation, and we can get all the boys and everybody else and go up there and work out his crop." They got out the next day and saw all the boys and men and a large crowd of us made ready to go. Margaret Ann was notified and prepared a sumptuous dinner and we worked out his whole crop and left it in apple-pie order for him, and left all the family happy. I never told a soul about this until I was making a speech one time a few years ago at the Colfax homecoming. John was present, leaning against a tree just outside the tabernacle. I was just wisecracking at the moment and remarked: "I could tell you a lot about the people of this

neighborhood. I could even tell you who shot Margaret Ann Rosenbaum's milkpail off the gate post fifty years ago, if I wanted to." John uncrossed his feet, spat on the ground and disappeared. Later on in the afternoon, he said: "You talk too durned much."

John had been prayed for so much at camp meetings that he understood fully how uncomfortable it would make a fellow sometimes to be prayed for publicly. A man lived some seven miles northeast of us, on the road to Mineola. John was out hunting some range hogs one day and the dog got on the trail of a bunch of hogs and followed them about five miles and caught up with this man driving forty head of John's hogs toward his own house. John stopped him and asked him what he was doing. The man said he had lost a hog and found it in with that bunch and could not cut it out, so he was driving the whole herd home, intending to cut out his hog and turn the others out, with the thought that they would return to their accustomed range. Of course, John knew this was a lie, and let it pass and drove his own hogs back to their range. Some months later, five wagons of us had carried cotton to Mineola and on the way back one of our drivers had gotten so drunk that he could not drive his wagon, and we had to camp until he got sober, which he did later in the night. The weather was frightfully cold that late at night. The hubs and axles of the wagons could be heard a mile or more away. John took a rather stiff drink to ward off the cold when he started home, about 4 A.M. As we passed this man's house, or before we got even with it, John began to pray for Old Red Eye Sullivan at the top of his voice, and his voice would carry like a flute: "Oh, Lord, have mercy on Old Red Eye Sullivan. Thou knowest he needs it. Without it he's agoner. He has grown old in sins and transgressions. Surround him with thy protecting arm, and shield him, especially from himself. Let thy forgiving Spirit surround him like a cloud. It is not necessary to tell you, Oh Lord, anything about him, for Thou knowest, Oh Lord, that the damned old so-and-so has stole a thousand hogs." Before we got far, a light started up in the house, and we expected a Winchester to crack. But it didn't.

A mile or so on down the road lived a man who was a

good friend of John, but the man's wife had made some rather cutting remarks, and John had heard of them. He began to pray for the husband, asking the Lord to shower blessings upon the man and to shield him from harm, and give him an abundance of the good things of life. "For Thou knowest, Oh Lord, that he has an old hellcat for a wife."

Regardless of all this, John did not intend to be a scoffer. He lived and died a member of the Methodist Church and venerated it and its traditions and never harmed anyone in his life.

Some other lawyers and I brought a land suit for the heirs of C. H. Gilchrist, a bachelor who was killed at the Battle of Rome, Ga., in 1864. We brought in something over 200 heirs! He had lived in this county before the war and joined the Confederate Army in Tyler in 1861. He joined the Masonic Lodge in Smith County just before that time and Elisha Tunnell was master of the lodge at the time. John Moseley, then 88, swore he knew when C. H. Gilchrist was here and knew he was a brother of Angus, who lived here and died many years later at Wills Point. Many witnesses swore that C. H. was one of the sons of Gilbert Gilchrist of Scotland. But the suit went haywire and we lost it.

Once there was a "crazy" man who stopped at our house to spend the night and stayed an entire year. This was when I was a small child. Then he moved to a neighbor's house and stayed a while, and after doing many crazy things that no one but a crazy person would do, he wound up by boiling a wash pot full of tobacco leaves and drank a half gallon of the juice. He then picked up his carpet bag and axe and headed out through the woods, never to be heard from again. Brother Allen, your great uncle, found the carpet bag in Dry Creek bottom four miles away a year later.

You've read about the only white man ever executed for crime by legal means in Van Zandt County. He was D. C. White, a transient man just passing through Van Zandt County, and not related to all the Whites living around Colfax. (An account of this murder and apprehension of the murderer is given in Wentworth Manning's "Some History of Van Zandt County"). D. C. White,

the transient, killed and robbed a peddler a short distance from our house. Mother and I heard the shot that killed the peddler, and Brother Allen, your great uncle, found the body of the man six weeks later. The murderer did not get the peddler's money, because a bag of gold coins was found lying near him by Allen, who took the money home to Father, who held it for the authorities. Father said the money smelled so bad that he put it far from the house.

About one or two years later, this same D. C. White came to spend the night at our house, like the old saying, the murderer had come back to visit the scene of his crime. He came very near to getting his "coup de grace" by two other strangers who had preceded him and who also were stopping at our house. White acted so nervous and behaved in such a way that these other men wanted father to let them despatch him at once, but White took off. When he was captured, Brother Allen identified him as the man who had stopped with us the day the peddler was killed. White's grave is out in the cemetery, but the grave lies north and south instead of east and west.

Long held in my memory is the "Christmas Dinner" given by Mrs. Bob Goode one year. She invited the entire county, including our family, to a dinner one Christmas. Bob, her husband, was not in sympathy with the project and he would have nothing to do with it. But, he could not help himself when Jane set her head. The guests began to arrive about eleven o'clock on Christmas day. All of Bob's old cronies were on hand. Nobody was in sight to greet them. Jane was all involved with preparing the sumptuous dinner. Finally someone asked Jane about Bob, and she could shed absolutely no light on his whereabouts. About that time there was quite a pounding noise down in the bottom. Bob was down there splitting rails. His cronies, who had already partaken of some Christmas cheer, thought it the funniest situation they had ever encountered. Some of the guests left, but the larger rortion of the crowd stayed on. Bob's cronies found the dinner horn and got out in the yard and took turns blowing it. The pounding of the maul went on. Finally, just a minute or two before noon, Bob came into sight with his maul and an axe on his shoulders and was met by his friends, first names,

John, Billie, W. D., Frank and others. They proceeded to welcome him back to his own house. Bob realized what he had to meet and assumed a dignified bearing, and refused to enter into the spirit of their banter.

However, since the situation was a fact and not a theory, and he had to do something about it, Bob changed into his long tailed Sunday suit, led the large group into the kitchen and dining room, both of which made a very large dining room. He took his seat, without any apparent notice from Jane, or any notice of her, and with apparent deep reverence called on the eldest man present and one who had not taken part in his welcome to say grace. The cronies had not been expecting anything like this. He held things on this high plane and did not give his cronies a chance to get in any funny remarks or to put the bee on him in any way. Aunt Sybil, a pre-civil-war, kitchen queen was supreme in her field and had been called in to help prepare the feast. She went unchallenged in the dishes she prepared.

After the dinner was over, all the men retired to other parts of the house, and Bob got in a more expansive mood, and began to have his fun at the expense of his cronies, a few of whom, especially John, were getting extremely drowsy after so much Christmas dinner. Bob, who had picked an argument with John on religion, asked John what church he belonged to. John, about half asleep, replied: "The Methodist Episcopal Church South of God."

One year 44,000,000 gnats hatched out in the timbered portion of our county, and by coincidence there was a gigantic wave of sore-eye. That year also were born a great number of jimber-jawed babies that were a result of the influence of their mother's habit of having to protrude their lower jaw to blow the gnats out of their eyes.

Back in 1850, in Havana, Alabama, my father was a wagon master. He built many of the prairie schooners and conestoga-type wagons that carried the families to the western states. The migrating people from the eastern seaboard would come to Havana to buy supplies, wagons, horses, mules, oxen and there to marshall the wagon trains that populated the western United States. One special job he built was a conestoga wagon on which he put his identifying marks. This wagon was designed to go to California,

to cross the entire continent to the gold fields on the Western coast. He built the wagon, and it was provisioned and took off as a part of a wagon train. Twenty-five years later, in Van Zandt County, the same wagon passed back through the country and stopped off at Fathers for minor repairs. Father recognized the wagon from the private marks he had put upon it. The wagon had been going for twenty-five years, crossing the continent twice, had been in no telling what kind of rough and rugged service in the California gold fields, had undergone strain, wear and tear, and when it reached Van Zandt County twenty-five years later, all it needed was some minor adjustments and repairs!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following accounts of life in the community of Colfax were taken from items published in the Wills Point Chronicle, The Van Zandt Enterprise and the Grand Saline Sun. Most of the news items were written by E. J. Steel, whom the editor of the Wills Point Chronicle described, under the date of Oct. 15, 1908, as a "southern gentleman of the old school, a Confederate veteran, loyal to the South and her traditions and ready to defend her cause." These old newspapers, bearing community news items of Colfax, were collected and saved by Cliff Kellam.

1906

From the Wills Point Chronicle of April 26, 1906 — Colfax, April 23; Mrs. Lula Thorn accompanied her uncle, Rev. Jesse Johnson of Commanche county, upon a visit to relatives near Tyler last Saturday. The contract to give our cemetery a thorough cleaning was let to Need Hendley last Saturday.

Mrs. "Ped" Everett is dangerously ill with pneumonia. She was reported better yesterday evening.

Rev. Frank Everett occupied the Methodist pulpit here yesterday evening.

Miss Della Pollard of Georgetown, Texas, is visiting old friends and relatives here.

Misses Ida and Eff Fortune and Lula Terry are at Lindale engaged in picking strawberries. Misses Lottie and Dollie Graham are at Chandler engaged in the same business. The "berry craze" has about depopulated Colfax of young ladies.

A dog supposed to have hydrophobia was killed near Cull Berryman's Thursday. It had bitten a number of dogs and cattle.

S. M. Kinsey and daughter, Mrs. Mary Grisham, are visiting in Tyler. Whit Hardegree and Willis Wood returned from Lindale last evening. They are delighted with that rich fruit section of eastern Texas. I regret to learn that Miss Belle Cone, who has been sick for some weeks, is very low.

Judge Spinks of Canton was here on business Thursday. We are having beautiful weather and the farmers are utilizing it to a "queen's taste."

Next Sunday our pulpits will be occupied by Revs. Sam McPhail and Pink White. They are products of Colfax and are coming on a visit to relatives and old friends.

"Uncle" John Geddie is yet confined to his bed. At intervals he seems to improve but as yet there is little prospect of early recovery. Cotton planting is the order of the day here. I doubt that the acreage of last year will be reduced to any great extent.

There was unusual commotion confined to our feminine circles last week. "Going to Lindale to pick strawberries!" was the exclamation wafted upon every breeze. Last Saturday morning the exodus to the berry fields opened up in good shape when nearly a dozen of our bright blithesome young ladies sallied out of port on Texas schooners chaperoned by Willis Wood and Whit Hardegree, namely: Lula and Lillian Brandon, Mattie Hardegree, Etta Rush, Annie Wood, Lottie and Clara Rusk, Cora Gentry, and Hermie Lawrence. Our girls are pretty, intelligent and industrious, yet I am of the opinion that the novelty of such an outing was the chief "bee" that buzzed in their bonnets" on this occasion.

August 14:

Mr. Bud Peel and Miss Nelie Kellis were quietly married yesterday morning. The young couple were reared in this community and enjoy the highest respect and friendship of all.

Prof. Bascom Cozby has returned from medical college at Texarkana the only medical college in Texas that offers facilities for a summer course to students.

"Uncle" Sam Terry, a member of Ross' Brigade, will attend the reunion at Tyler this week. His daughter, Miss Frankie, who is visiting in that city, will accompany him home.

1907

April 1:

Interest in the game of "42" in this neighborhood is unabated. Strange that young people become infatuated with things that yield neither physical nor mental profit. A sacrifice of time, too, that could be advantageously employed.

While, as yet, we have no extensive orchards in this vicinity, the sale of peaches and apples alone during the past two years brought some three thousand dollars for distribution among its citizens.

The ribbon cane syrup came next as a source of revenue to those who raise cane. Potatoes and peas were also lines that helped to pull many of the farmers out of the bog. Within the past two years, the farmers have manifested greater interest than ever before in the raising and housing of feed stuff for their stock.

July 29:

There is no railroad news of more than ordinary interest. The people continue to gradually subscribe stock to the enterprise and everyone feels confident that the road will be built.

Buddie Rusk, Will White and William Box carried fruit to the market last week. The fruit crop here amounts to comparatively nothing this season. The people will sadly miss the usual flow of money that the fruit crop brings to this community.

Bud Fortune met with a frightful experience a few days ago. He had "slipt" off his shoes near his work and when he returned to the house bringing the shoes under his arms, when he attempted to put a foot into one he discovered a large pilot snake inside of it. We can imagine his fright. He, however, mustered up courage to slay the serpent.

July 31:

On Tuesday of last week the heaviest and most lasting rain of the season fell here. For an hour and a half in almost unabated torrents. The creeks were higher than ever known to the "oldest inhabitant." A portion of the underpinning of the storehouse of Charley Thorn and father Odom was washed away. Ben Gentry with spade and shovel saved his residence from collapsing.

Rip Thorn and Jack Kellam, who took fruit to market along the T. & P. railroad returned Saturday night. They did fairly well considering conditions. They report the roads almost impassable in places. The fruit is not doing well here. Too much rain has caused it to sour, shrivel and fall from the trees.

August 5:

This is First Monday and several of "our boys" have gone to Canton to visit the "boneyard" and exchange "skeletons."

John Muchelroy and wife and Mrs. Jindson of Nacogdoches county are visiting the family of Cleve Thorn. Cleve Thorn, wife and Tom P. Rusk met her at Athens and conveyed her here.

There is a quietude in railroad circles. The chief engineer of the Tyler-Canton line passed through here one day last week locating a preliminary survey. He informed me that the locating corps of engineers were a few miles west of Tyler. The president of the road was expected home from New York the latter part of the week. Which ever route the line may take will soon be known.

John S. Thorn is the proprietor of two goodly sized fish tanks. Last week he decided to change the stock of fish in one of these tanks by drawing off the water and having a royal fish festival. About seventy-five neighbors and friends answered the summons and were on time to assist in the work and enjoy the novelty of the proceeding. Drainage was rather a slow and patience-wearing process for the boys, who were over eager to swipe the fish in wholesale fashion and a seine was called into play. The boys took to the water like ducks and soon an abundance of fine large trout and catfish were captured. The ladies had come fully prepared with everything necessary for a first-class old-fashion fish-fry. Nobody was disappointed — it was all the name implies. The ladies of Owlet Green may wear the belt as caterers of fried chicken and pies, but the ladies of Colfax have no superiors in preparing a fish dinner. In the afternoon as a source of amusement for the girls and ladies the boys repaired to the adjoining lake and rendered marvelous stunts in swimming and deep diving. It is not exaggeration to say that this fish-fry afforded more genuine pleasure, frolic and fun than any ever be-

fore enjoyed in this community, and for which we are indebted to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Thorn.

August 12:

We have no railroad news of special interest this week. New Stock subscriptions are being gradually added and those most closely interested are confident the Tyler-Canton line will be built.

Since the reunion at Wills Point proved such a grand success in every way the more regretful are we that our community had so few representatives to share the pleasure of the occasion. Among those from Colfax who attended were Prof. Graham and wife, Will Bailey, Ben Gentry and son, Brady, John Matthews and others whose names we did not get.

Mrs. Alex Kellam is visiting relatives at Nacogdoches, the home of her girlhood, and will doubtless enjoy her visit splendidly. Her son, Jim, accompanied her as far as Athens.

Quite a number of Colfax people attended the closing exercises of Prof. J. A. McPhail's singing school at Oakland last Friday night. Prof. McPhail is well known as one of the leading music teachers in Van Zandt county.

August 19:

John S. Thorn has sold the Peacock farm near his home to a newcomer named Thornton. The tract contains 100 acres; consideration \$1000. Smith Peacock and family, who have resided on this farm a number of years, will leave for McLennan county in a few days. George A. Reaves has completed his gin house. The gin and machinery are on hand ready to be placed in position when necessary.

Mesdames Callaway and Beckham of Hughes Springs are visiting their brother, J. T. Fortune. Mrs. Beckham and this brother had not met in 34 years and naturally her visit is a pleasure to each.

Mrs. Alex Kellam returned from an extended visit at Nacogdoches last Saturday. She was met at Athens by her son, Jim.

Sam Downs, a well known and highly respected citizen near this place, died of pneumonia last Tuesday morning. His remains were interred in the Oakland Cemetery Wednesday. The deceased leaves an invalid wife, two small children and many relatives to mourn his death.

December 28:

A most delightful family reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Terry, near Colfax, last Thursday. This venerable couple have occupied this homestead since pioneer days in Van Zandt County, highly respected and classed among the best citizens of the community in which they have so long resided. Here they have reared to manhood and womanhood five sons and four daughters, all of whom, except the youngest son and daughter, have married, left the old home and gone out into the business world to battle with the mad realities of life, just as each generation takes up the burdens laid down by the preceding one.

Those present upon the enjoyable occasion were: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Terry, their young son and daughter, Albert and Fannie, Dr. Will Terry, wife and their children and Robert Goode of Canton. Sam Terry, wife and child of Grand Saline and the following local relatives: Osce Terry, wife and child, T. T. Terry, wife and four children, Chas. Walters, wife and child, Prof. J. A. Graham and wife, Mrs. Daisy McPhail and child, Tom Everett and wife and Miss Nelia Walters and this writer. A total of thirty-two, inclusive of parents, children, grandchildren and sons-in-law.

A splendid dinner was served. After all had feasted, a short and entertaining song service was held in the parlor. The male members of the party donned their hunting attire and went out among the feathered tribe for an afternoon's sport.

Family reunions are greatly enjoyed and should be encouraged, because they hinder the alienation of separated members of a family and tend to keep alive and strengthen the bonds of affection and love that were formed in early childhood beneath the parental roof. The sad, sweet memories of the halycon days of youth are sacred and cherished above all else. May these good people live to enjoy many more happy reunions.

December 30:

Hamp Keahey and Miss Annie Stewart were married by Rev. Coppage, December 22, 1907. These young people were reared in this community and belong to highly respected families.

1908

January 6:

Fabulous reports of a "busted" bank in Tyler have caused quite a sensation here. Among other things upset, was money belonging to stockholders of the Peoples Railroad Co., which was deposited therein and through collusion with the managers, the collapse was in the programme, and the country Jokes are "left to cry over spilt milk." Quite a number of the "I told you so" people are in evidence. When the clouds roll by, I trust that a true status will dispel the gloom and confidence be restored; that the promoters of the railroad will do something to convince the people that they mean business.

J. S. Thorn has ginned 349 bales of cotton this year.

January 20:

The late favorable news concerning the Peoples' Railroad has caused little excitement or "jubilation" among the natives for the reason that they have heard too often the exclamation, "wolf!" which has ceased to alarm them. The people are waiting to be shown something more convincing than empty promises. Repeated disappointments have to a great extent withered confidence — lost confidence is usually hard to restore — but we will hope in the same old way. Jack Kellam, like many others in this community, made a failure last year in building a storm cellar. He is now building another in the proper manner by cementing it thoroughly. Rats, moles and seep water are very destructive to stormhouses in sand soil like ours.

February 18:

John S. Thorn went to Tyler Friday for fruit trees for himself and Whit Hardegree.

March 9:

Little Thelma the baby girl of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Hardegree, had a foot seriously burned last Wednesday. While the mother was washing clothes out in the yard, the child walked into the hot embers around the wash pot and one foot was badly burned before the mother could rescue her.

Sweet potatoes did not keep well here through the winter and the result is that seed potatoes are unusually scarce.

Warren Hendley was the victim of a painful accident Saturday night. In an attempt to move a wagon he fell

backward, dislocating an elbow, which was soon replaced.

March 16:

A stereoptican show was the attraction at the school-house here last Wednesday and Thursday nights. Good audiences attended and everyone was highly pleased with the show. Out in the backwoods where the opportunities of children for seeing anything out of the ordinary are very limited, such shows are both entertaining and instructive. Besides, the cost of tuition is dirt cheap. Sam Terry and family, who have made their temporary home in Grand Saline the past year, have returned and will occupy a residence near Warren Hendley. We welcome the return of this clever family into our midst.

Mr. Hale, who resides near this place, has become a partner of Bud Miller in the mercantile business here.

March 23:

The Shreveport Times reports that the Santa Fe railroad Company has changed its contemplated routes from Center to Timpson and has purchased nine miles of the Ragby Lumber Company's road which crosses the Houston road at Timpson, and will build direct to Henderson which makes a direct line to Tyler. This gives some hope that the road may eventually be extended through this county.

June 15:

The peach crop of this section will turn out fairly well. It is rumored that the former custom of hauling by wagon to distant markets will to a large extent be abandoned and shipping substituted. Bad roads throughout the country perhaps caused the change.

June 22:

Sam Terry has bought quite a lot of cattle in this vicinity and will ship them to Fort Worth in a few days, if he does not find sale through other buyers.

Our hustling merchant, Will Bailey took, a load of chickens, eggs, butter, etc. to Tyler last week.

The farmers are beginning to realize the full benefits from the stock law. We hear no complaints about the old long horn fencebreaks these days.

A camp of W.O.W. was organized at Oakland, a few miles northwest from here, last week. Fourteen charter members will likely go to a camp of much importance in the circles of Woodcraft. The camp at Colfax numbers

over one hundred members and is in a flourishing condition.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year by the Masonic Lodge of Colfax at its last meeting: J. H. McMahon W. M.; C. H. Matthews, S. W.; W. J. Box, J. W.; J. W. Kirkpatrick, Treas.; A. J. McMahon, Sec.; R. M. Jones, S. D.; A. Kirkpatrick, J. D.; J. L. Vineyard, S. S.; Geo. A. Reaves, J. S.; and H. T. Kirkpatrick, Tiler.

July 27:

But few of the Democrats of this community failed to attend the election last Saturday. Some of our fruit haulers were obliged to be absent on account of ripe fruit which a delay from market would have been a considerable pecuniary loss to them.

August 3:

Dobbin McPhail, Ben Gentry, Tom Geddie, Lem McPhail and Archie McPhail purchased a hay meadow near Canton and have gone to cut and bring home the hay, which beats pulling fodder.

August 31:

A long-felt want was gratified last week by the building of a splendid bridge across Saline Creek on the road from Willis Wood's farm to the Martin's Mill and Grand Saline road. John S. Thorn furnished the timber and the neighbors helped to erect it.

Jack Kellam has bought a new syrup mill and is preparing to make sugar cane syrup for the neighborhood. The crop is said to be very good. Will Thorn is visiting relatives at his old home in Nacogdoches County.

Our druggist, J. A. McMahon, has opened up a cold drink stand in the drug store.

September 14:

A splendid birthday dinner was served to 42 invited guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wright of this place, given in honor of their son, Edgar, and daughter, Exar, aged respectively 16 and 14 years, last Saturday. Good eating, fine music and unstinted hospitality were the features that made the occasion one of much pleasure, long to be cherished in the memory of those present.

Tom P. Rush, C. W. Tunnell and Earl White left this morning with fruit for the markets along the Texas & Pacific railway west of here. Earl Steel, Bud Fortune,

Whit and Wiley Hardegree carried reas to the Grand Saline market Wednesday and found ready purchasers at a fair price.

Jack Kellam and Rip and Cleve Thorn sold cotton in Grand Saline Tuesday.

John Thorn has put some excellent work on the road leading from Jack Kellam's to his gin.

We now have the names Rash, Rush and Rusk in the neighborhood. It is presumably a task for the printers to distinguish one from the other when occasions demand their use in Colfax items, especially so, as the writer lacks a good deal of putting up a "copper plate" job in his penmanship. Speaking of news reminds me to say that we have a dense thicket of "Thorns" without a single "Rose."

September 28:

This portion of Van Zandt is zealously guarding her well known reputation as the leader in luscious persimmons and fat possums. Last Friday night "Coon" Kinsey, Jim Attaway and George A. Reaves made a raid upon the hen house marauders and captured seven.

Kelley, the bright little seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lem McPhail, when at his best picks 100 pounds of cotton a day, which is remarkable for one so young. A boy of his ability will grow to useful manhood and be something in life.

October 5:

Will Thorn and Miss Ada McMillan, two of our most popular society young people, were united in the holy bonds of marriage at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Rev. Covey of Ben Wheeler officiating. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave McMillan and has been reared in this vicinity where she is well known and highly esteemed for her many noble traits of character. Her accomplishments far exceed many young ladies of superior advantages. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Thorn, an industrious young farmer who commands highest respect and confidence of our citizens.

Bill Kellam carried a wagon load of sweet potatoes to Kaufman and readily sold out at 75c a bushel.

Jack Kellam has purchased and set up a new and excellent cane mill and will do the syrup making for all

who raised cane in this neighborhood. Jack is an expert at the job and will doubtless do the job "according to Hoyle."

November 23:

Noah Clements and Rip Thorn returned from Corsicana yesterday where they carried two wagon loads of ribbon cane syrup which they sold at a satisfactory price. Each year the reputation of Van Zandt's excellent syrup has expanded till it is now favorably known over a vast territory, making it hard to supply the great demand for it. Jack Kellam made eight hundred gallons of ribbon cane syrup from a three-acre patch of cane. This beats cotton a little bit.

October 15:

The Chronicle's faithful correspondent from Colfax writes that he will take his annual vacation, which includes a trip to Ft. Worth, leaving the matter of representing the paper in efficient hands during his absence. This affords us an opportunity to say a word about Mr. C. J. Steel. We have never had a more faithful or efficient representative than Mr. Steel has been during his term of several years as correspondent for the Chronicle at Colfax. His habits of promptness should be an example to all who desire to accomplish anything in the world, his communication always reaching the office on time unless carelessly handled by others. He is a man of splendid ability, cultured and refined, and a southern gentleman of the old school. He is a Confederate veteran, loyal to the South and her traditions and ready to defend her cause. The Chronicle is proud to count him as its friend and it is glad to speak this feeble tribute to his worth as a sterling citizen.

(From The Van Zandt Enterprise, November 5, 1908—Colfax, Nov. 2): "School opened this morning but with small attendance, pupils being unable to get the new series of textbooks. They do not now seem in a proper spirit for studying.

In order to get crops worked up before bad weather, syrup making is being pushed.

A good many from Colfax were shopping in Grand Saline Saturday. Homer McPhail has returned from "out west" where he has been picking cotton.

J. S. Thorn and wife have a new girl in their home.

Mesdames Frank Wright and Mattie Berry will leave tomorrow on a visit with relatives in Oklahoma.

Bro. Couey was unable to fill his appointment here yesterday. The men folks will all go to town to vote tomorrow, and the women can do as they please one day.

The bird season being now open, we hear guns in every direction, but of course it is town hunters as farmers are yet too busy for sport.

Pictures, together with biographel comment, of several of the successful candidates in the General Election referred to in previous item appeared on the front page of the Van Zandt Enterprise.

Among them and of special interest to the Colfax community were D. S. McPhail, Tax Collector; Charles S. Thorn, Deputy Collector; J. S. Gentry, Sheriff; and J. R. Kellis, Deputy Sheriff. The people of Colfax in 1908 (men only!) voted at Owlet Green where the Democrats polled 71 votes, the Republicans, 3).

November 30:

Last week was a record breaker in the amount of cotton seed hauled to market from this vicinity, which at a fair price, means some financial aid to the tillers of the soil. This, however, at the expense of much worn land badly in need of fertilizers.

Sam D. Terry has bought the John Williams farm near this place and will move his family there in the near future.

December 7:

The little twin grandson of William Cone fell from a wagon last Thursday and sustained the breaking of a collar bone. It is doing nicely.

December 14:

Nat Clark of Owlet Green and Miss Pearl McPhail at the Woodleigh community were united in the holy bonds of wedlock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dobbin McPhail, yesterday. The contracting parties are well known young people of the highest respectability. A host of friends join in best wishes for their prosperity and happiness through life.

December 21:

The Colfax friends of Bro. Will Johns are proud to

learn that he withstood a successful operation for appendicitis at Dallas, a few days ago and the prospects are bright for his early recovery.

Will Thorn and wife have moved to a farm near and belonging to C. W. Tannell, two miles east of here.

Ben Thorn of Shelby county is visiting his brothers, John and Cleve Thorn.

Tracy Reaves, the oldest son of Geo. A. Reaves, who is attending school at Cleburne, came home to spend the holidays.

John Kirkpatrick has sold his farm to Jim Box and will immediately move to Oklahoma.

December 28:

The comers and goers have been numerous and hard to catch on the fly. Among those from distance visiting relatives and friends here are: Mrs. Pearl Kidd and children, Tyler; Prof. Luther Oliver and wife, Denton; Will Reynolds and wife, Corsicana; Girlie Castleberry. Medical College, Galveston; Eugene Muckelrov, Nacogdoches; Sam Terry and family, Grand Saline; Dr. Will Terry and family, Chas. Thorn and family, White and Hill Reece, and Mrs. Mary Kellis of Canton.

Even the once very common plain holiday drunks were conspicuously absent which evidences the fact that the old time tippling habit during the holidays is fast becoming obsolete, and that the younger generation of boys and young men are being trained to lives of sobriety. More's the pity that I cannot say the same for the alarming cigarette habit.

1909

January 4:

Tom Rusk returned Saturday from a business trip to Nacogdoches and Livingston. He reports the general situation of those sections very flourishing. He brought some samples of the fine tobacco raised at Nacogdoches. The tobacco industry there is thriving and promises to be greatly enlarged.

January 11:

The sudden cold snap of last Wednesday gave opportunity for those who had not killed hogs. Many fine porkers were slain in this vicinity that day. As an example of the great improved stock in this community, I will state

that Jack Kellam and Willis Wood slaughtered three "Chester Whites" that averaged 368 pounds, which indicates that the old-time Texas "razor back" has passed out.

February 8:

Frank Walters, overseer on this section of the Grand Saline and Martins Mill public road, called the hands out last Wednesday and did some efficient repairing in the shape of new culverts, etc.

Jim Kellam was selected to succeed Mr. Walters as overseer. The writer, with Rip Thorn and Jack Kellam, visited the Salt City last Friday. A round trip in a two horse wagon over such roads as we have between here and Grand Saline will convince any sane man of two important things — the fallacy of our present road working system and the urgent necessity for a railroad through this portion of Van Zandt.

February 15:

Miss Annie Wood, assistant teacher in our public school, entertained her pupils in a unique and pleasant Valentine party at her home last Saturday afternoon. Sixty-four little boys and girls were present. After a number of interesting plays were finished dainty refreshments were served. Then came the distribution of the pretty valentines which the children had brought, to the ones to whom they were addressed. A gayer or happier throng of children are rarely witnessed, each and all seemed to enjoy the occasion immensely and will doubtless cherish the memory, the pleasure of this Valentine afternoon many years hence.

Mr. Garret, who resides on Hugh Kirkpatrick's farm, planted cabbage seed in a hot bed and is now furnishing his neighbors with plants. This is new with our gardeners and they are taking advantage of the opportunity for raising early cabbage.

March 1:

Tom Everett and John Everett and John Thorn have recently built up-to-date storm cellars at their homes.

Mrs. Idel Kellam varied the monotony by giving an old fashioned quilting and dinner last Tuesday. A dozen or more matrons responded to the invitation and enjoyed the occasion fine.

Tom Everett left for Myrtle Springs this morning to purchase fruit trees. When the means of transportation

comes to the people of this section fruit orchards on a grand scale will spring up like magic. We have the climate and lands adapted to high grade fruit culture of every variety.

A debate between four of our young school boys will take place at the school house next Friday night. The affirmative, as I understand, is that Gen. Houston should have called a court martial for Gen. Santa Anna when captured at the battle of San Jacino. The debaters are Floyd Pitts, Brady Gentry, Curry McMahon and Jay Oliver. The subject chosen indicates that they are training their minds in historic and patriotic research and deserve encouragement.

April 26:

A moving picture show is billed for this place tonight.

September 13:

The last scholastic census of this district place the number of pupils at 124 with a considerable number of unders and overs to be added. Last session the rooms of the two teachers were badly crowded. A second assistant has been employed for the next term. House room is inadequate and an effort is being made to build an additional room, but as yet no definite action has been taken.

September 20:

John S. Thorn has ginned 180 and G. A. Reeves 119 bales of cotton to date this season.

October 25:

Good milk cows command tip top prices here. Rip Thorn sold a Jersey to Uncle Deallis Rose for \$50 spot cash Saturday.

Married: Frank Everett and Miss Annie McMillan were united in the holy bonds of wedlock at the home of Tom Everett yesterday, Sunday, Rev. Frank Everett officiating. Also married the same date, Jim Fountain to Miss Lottie Graham, Rev. P. R. White officiating. The happy young couples were reared in this community and belong to highly respected families. I join their many friends in wish for them long and happy lives.

Albert Terry was the unfortunate loser of his pocket-book containing \$19, enroute home from Grand Saline Thursday night. Papers in the book will identify the owner if found.

Work on our school house is progressing nicely. When completed the looks of the premises will be greatly improved.

1914

October 12:

J. S. Thorn ginned over 500 bales cotton up to Saturday night. Rev. Milton filled his regular appointment at the Methodist church Sunday morning and night.

J. D. Matthews, W. O. Cone, Carl Dove, Misses Aline Woods, Ira Vaughn and others attended the Baptist association at Grand Saline Friday and Saturday.

October 19:

Rev. Schwab filled his regular appointment at the Presbyterian Church Sunday.

Nat Henderson and family of Owlet Green visited relatives here last week.

October 28:

School commenced this morning with Prof. Malcolm McEachern as principal and Misses Lucy Schwab, Lucy Bawner and Betty Reid assistants.

November 2:

Little Mariam Fortune, who was quite ill last week, is some better. Jack Hines and family of Ben Wheeler visited A. W. Rusk and family Sunday.

Quite a crowd from here went to Canton with the First Monday crowd. Rev. Grammer filled his regular appointment at the Baptist church here Saturday and Sunday.

November 9:

Houston Rusk returned Friday from West Texas where he has been picking cotton.

Mrs. Lottie Walters spent last week with her sister, Mrs. Clara Kirkpatrick, at Grand Saline.

November 16:

Miss Sabra White visited Misses Era and Etta McMillan at Mt. Gibson Sunday.

Misses Ethyl Oliver, Birdie Tunnell, Tillie Thorn and Emma Thornton were shopping in Grand Saline Saturday.

(From the Grand Saline Sun, Nov. 26, 1914: "A gin belonging to W. J. Quattlander burned at Owlet Green Friday night. The loss was total, origin of fire unknown." From the war news at this time under headline "Germans

in Brussels": "The boulevards fell suddenly empty. There was not a house that was not closely shuttered. Along the route by which we now knew the Germans were advancing, it was as though the plague stalked.")

(From the local news of Grand Saline in the Dec. 10 issue of the Sun, "A. S. Tunnell was appointed Deputy City Marshal. Mr. Tunnell will also act as night watchman.")

December 21:

Dr. Jack Kellam of Canton made a professional visit to see little Clifton Kellam Sunday afternoon.

Dean Hardegree and sister, Miss Mattie, had business in Grand Saline last Wednesday.

Arthur Geddie has two children sick with pneumonia.

1915

January 4th:

Brady Gentry, who is going to school in Tennessee, visited homefolks here during the holidays.

Born unto Mr. and Mrs. Archie McPhail December 25th, a girl. Clarence Tunnell and Miss Aline Woods of the community surprised their friends December 27th by driving over to the church and getting married, Rev. Frank Everett officiating.

Misses Carlie Ballard and Pearl Johnson of Ben Wheeler visited in the community Sunday afternoon.

January 11:

Mrs. C. W. Tunnell is visiting her son E. C. Tunnell and family at Martins Mill.

J. H. Fortune and little sons, Clyde and Claude, visited at Lindale last week.

Uncle Robert Stewart, an old and highly respected citizen of this community, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Shields, at Oakland Monday, Jan. 4th, internment in Colfax cemetery.

Houston Rusk of Colfax and Miss Jeffie Reaves of Mt. Gibson were married at the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Reaves, Sunday afternoon at 6 o'clock. Rev. Grammer of Grand Saline officiating.

January 18:

Mr. and Mrs. Will White have a new baby girl at their home.

Mrs. A. H. Pitts and son, Floyd, are guests of relatives

here this week (—from the Van community news of January 25th, 1915; The Independent Telephone Company is putting in a toll line to Colfax.)

March 15:

Archie McPhail was kicked on the knee by a vicious mule Saturday, but outside of a painful bruise, he was not injured seriously.

(From Owlet Green community news of March 4, 1915—“Several from here made business trips to Grand Saline last week. They report the roads in bad shape. School is progressing nicely with Prof. Jas. F. Dodson at its head. The enrollment up to date is 47 with an average attendance of 40. Our community was visited by a moving picture show Saturday and Monday nights.

Miss Annie Oaks entertained her many friends Sunday afternoon with a singing.”

March 28:

W. J. Quattlander is figuring on building a new cotton gin at Owlet Green this summer.

(From Van community news, April 5th, “Dr. McMahon of Colfax makes his calls here now in his new car.”)

(From the Canton Herald, Apr. 29, 1915, “Some of the rural carriers out of Canton have been forced to go on horseback during the last few days owing to the roads, bridges and high water.”)

June 10:

(Grand Saline) — Floyd Terry motored to Colfax Saturday to deliver John Thorn's automobile which he recently purchased from A. L. Taylor of this city.

June 28:

Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Gentry, formerly of this place, but now of Tyler, are here at the bedside of their daughter, Mrs. O. D. Terry. Colfax Masonic Lodge installed following officers: C. O. Walters, W. M., J. L. Vineyard, Treasurer, A. J. McMahon, S. D., H. N. Geddie, J. D., R. H. Chambers, Chap., C. H. Matthews S. S., W. S. Brannon, J. S., H. T. Kirkpatrick, Tiler.

(—from Ben Wheeler community news of June 28th”—“An extra large crowd attended the singing Sunday afternoon. The Colfax Class came over and rendered some good music. Among their singers were Ethan Terry, George Reynolds, and James Graham.”

(—from Moore community news of May 3rd—"Franklin Stewart of Colfax and Miss Cora Reynolds of our community were united in marriage at the home of Rev. Frank Everett in the Holly Springs community Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock.")

July 12:

Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Terry will leave today in a wagon for Mineral Wells and other places. They will travel for several weeks in the interest of Mrs. Terry's health.

We learn that J. S. Thorn has recently engaged 2,000 bushels of peaches to J. E. Thomas of Grand Saline and will begin the delivery today. Several of our farmers will leave today with fruit for the Dallas market.

(—from Ben Wheeler community news—"Dr. Lee is still limping from the effects of injuries received in a runaway several weeks ago.")

July 29:

J. S. Thorn has sold 1500 bushels of Elberta peaches and will ship a car of Thorn Clings this week.

(—from Ben Wheeler community news, August 16th—"Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Wilson gave a social Saturday night in honor of their son Farris' birthday. Prof. E. C. Tunnell and family visited here last week.")

August 9:

Sorghum syrup making is the order of the day. A great deal of it is being made which means that the expense of living is going to be cut down.

Several from Ben Wheeler and Van attended the baptizing here Sunday afternoon. Still they carry peaches to Dallas. Several loads left yesterday.

(An advertisement in the Wills Point Chronicle of Aug. 20th, 1915 — "\$424.10 and \$474.10, two and five passenger Ford cars at Wills Point.")

August 30:

Bro. Weatherly, Rev. G. J. Reynolds, and C. W. Tunnell will leave today for Lindale to attend the Tyler District Conference which convenes at that city.

Prof. Jay Oliver left us last week for Coryell County where he will teach another year.

Farmers are very busy trying to save their peas which have been injured considerably by the rains. W. A. Box has 20 hands picking peas for him this morning.

1925

December 17:

Miss Ila Kuykendall of Canton and Sam Reaves of Colfax were married by Rev. Fleetwood at his home in Colfax last Wednesday night. The bride is a popular member of the younger set in Canton and the groom is the son of G. A. Reaves of Colfax. The bride and groom will make their home near Colfax where the groom will engage in farming.

School Notes: Colfax has one of the most modern, best equipped buildings in the country. The rooms are scrupulously clean and attractively decorated with growing plants, the auditorium is one of the best. Eleven grades are taught in this school. The work is characterized by wide-awake, progressive methods. Charles West is superintendent. Other members of the faculty are Floyd Blassingame, Horace Stringer, Miss Fave Pinkerton and Miss Nancy Eaton. Clower is a part of the Colfax consolidation. Miss Bracken is the teacher. She is doing painstaking, conscientious work.

1926

August 19:

Old Tunnell Chapel Homecoming: Colfax, Aug. 29—There will be a special program rendered by the Colfax boys. All ex-Colfax men and women are urged to be present. We extend a hearty welcome to all. Program: Chairman, Rev. Lester Vaughn; Aug. 28, 8:00 P.M., Rev. S. M. McPhail; Aug. 29, 10:00 A.M., Hon. H C. Geddie; 11:00 A.M., Rev. B. B. Crim; 1:30 P.M., Experience Meeting; 8:00 P.M., Rev. T. R. White.

September 16:

Mr. Noble Tunnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Tunnell, Miss Clyde Geddie, popular daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Geddie, both residents of Colfax, were married at Colfax Methodist Parsonage last Saturday night. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Fire, Methodist pastor, in the presence of a group of friends and relatives of the contracting parties. The groom, a prosperous farmer in the Colfax community, is well known over the country for his singing ability. The newly married couple will make their home in Colfax.

September 23:

Quite a bit of sickness in our community at present.

Mrs. C. A. Kellam visited in Athens the forepart of last week. Mrs. Ethan Terry of Grand Saline spent Monday of last week with S. T. Terry and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Dezz Rash and baby, Billy Jack, of Chandler, spent a part of last week with Mr. and Mrs. John Rash.

Mr. and Mrs. Aulcia Clements are the proud parents of a new baby boy. Mrs. Florence Everitt left Saturday for an extended visit with her son at Dallas.

Masters Floyd and Kenneth Terry of Grand Saline, spent the weekend with their grandparents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dove, of Texarkana, spent Sunday here. Mrs. Minnie Wood visited in Ben Wheeler last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Rowden and baby and Mrs. Ernest Reynolds of Grand Saline, spent Sunday with G. W. Reynolds and family.

Messrs. Frank Fortune and Beechie Ballard and Misses Lucille Austin and Ida Ballard were Dallas visitors Sunday.

Mrs. Lewis Kellam and little daughter, Elsie, of Seagoville, spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kellam.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Goode and baby visited in Antioch Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Graydon McPhail and little daughter, Wanda Jean, of Grand Saline, spent Sunday with Mrs. McPhail's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fortune.

Messrs. Arnie and Caleb Clowers were Tyler visitors Sunday.

Miss Mildred Matthews, of Grand Saline, spent the weekend with her parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Smith and daughter, Julia Faye, and Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Rusk spent Sunday in Grand Saline as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kirkpatrick.

Mrs. Katie Peek and daughter, Ruth, of Athens, are visiting relatives here.

Mr. Clyde Fortune, who is attending school in Grand Saline spent the weekend with his parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Matthews and children spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Matthews at Ben Wheeler.

Mr. and Mrs. George Clowers visited Mr. and Mrs. Jess Clowers at Grand Saline.

September 30:

Mr. and Mrs. Robenia Ballard are the proud parents of a baby boy. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ballard and smaller children left Saturday morning for Quanah where they expect to stay for a few months and pick cotton. Mr. G. A. Reaves visited in Dallas and Ft. Worth last week. Miss Luna Mae, who has been attending a business college in Ft. Worth, came back with him for a few weeks stay.

Mrs. S. K. McPhail and children, Farene and Fred, returned Sunday to their home in Dallas after spending several weeks with relatives here.

Rev. Lester Vaughn of Trenton, former pastor of the Baptist Church here, was in our midst a few days last week.

Mr. G. T. Matthews and little son Floyd T., spent last week in Marshall, the guests of the former's sister there.

Mr. and Mrs. Lois Reaves of Grand Saline spent Sunday with G. A. Reaves and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Brandon and smaller children of Canton Sundayed in Colfax.

Mrs. Minnie Edmonson of Corsicana, is visiting her son, Leland, and family.

COLFAX MASONIC LODGE NO. 904 WAS ORGANIZED IN 1904

Colfax Lodge No. 904 was organized in the year 1904 by L. Tunnell, N. A. Matthews, V. B. Cozby, A. J. McMahon. B. T. Wright, J. A. Kirkpatrick, J. W. Kirkpatrick, H. T. Kirkpatrick, C. W. Graham, C. S. Thorn, W. J. Bailey, J. K. Oakes, W. B. Richardson, C. H. Matthews, J. T. Pitts, W. G. Payne, J. L. Vineyard, G. A. Reaves, J. S. Thorn, S. M. Stewart, and C. O. Walters. V. B. Cozby was named the first Worshipful Master, and application was made for charter.

On December 8, 1904, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas granted Colfax its charter on the application of the above men, and in June, 1905 an election was held, at which time L. Tunnell became Worshipful Master; C. W. Graham, Senior Warden; C. S. Thorn, Junior Warden; B. F. Wright, Treasurer; M. L. McMahon, Secretary; C. O.

Walters, Senior Deacon; S. M. Stewart, Junior Deacon; G. A. Reaves, Senior Steward; C. H. Matthews, Junior Steward; and H. T. Kirkpatrick, Tiler. Among the first members listed after the first election were: W. J. Bailey, V. B. Cozby, J. A. Graham, J. W. Kirkpatrick, A. J. McMahon, J. L. Oakes, W. R. Peel, J. F. Pitts, W. H. Richardson, S. D. Terry, J. S. Thorn, and J. L. Vineyard.

(—from the Records of the Grand Lodge, Waco.)

MEMORIES OF COLFAX

By Floyd B. Pitts

(Mr. Pitt's contribution of the following notes was originally intended for an article. Since the color and flavor of Colfax life would have been lost in an attempt to weave his notes into an article, Mr. Pitts was persuaded to let the editor publish them as written).

Colfax was a wonderful place, filled with wonderful people, and the memories I have of the community are vast and varied. Among those treasured memories, I distinctly recall:

Broom wire and cigar box (sometimes tin cans were used) telephones — about 1902 and a few years thereafter. Flanged tin lid set in round hole to fit in cigar box. Tight wire from pole outside house through augur hole held box against inside wall (or box was tacked to wall.) Knock on tin with spoon, knife, or some such object to call neighbor. Good for about a mile, more or less. These were not playthings. They filled a real need, and devising such method of communication points up the ingenuity of the people in those years.

On the G. A. Reaves place (toward Mt. Gibson) was a glade-like clearing. In woods was site of Indian Camp. Five large mounds (some larger than others) spaced short distance apart up length of clearing. Mounds were about 5' to 7' (approximately) in height and large around at base. Used to play around them. Found arrow heads and some pieces of broken pottery. As far as I know, they never were completely explored — may have been burial or ceremonial mounds. They have practically disappeared now. Buddy Reaves and his family lived by them many years.

About 1906 Mr. Warren Hendley installed a windmill

and overhead water tank at his home on Canton road (first house out of Colfax at that time), affording running water in and about the place, kitchen, barn, etc. He built small room in yard just off kitchen porch for bathroom (bath tub). Probably first and only windmill and bath tub in community at time and years following. Only windmill I knew of ever in community.

Mr. Jack Kellam had a syrup mill by roadside, by creek, near his home. Grew ribbon cane on his bottom land. Endured many years from earliest recollection. Ran syrup in old-fashioned jugs, sealed with hot red sealing wax over stopper. We used to take our own jugs to get syrup our family purchased.

Mr. J. S. Thorn, who ran post office in his yard before Rural Free Delivery, had a large gin near his home on Canton road, half a mile or so past Mr. Warren Hendley's place. Did big meal grinding business many years. Later years Mr. Thorn put in big peach orchards — both sides of road — must have been 100 to 150 acres. Sold peaches to some canners and to haulers of peaches to Dallas in wagons to peddle on streets or house to house. Wagon load ranged from 30 to maybe 50 or so bushels, depending on size of wagon and team. Took whole week to make trip, allowing a day or a day and a half to sell out. Probably came in with \$30.00 to \$50.00, sometimes more. But that was a lot of money in the early years of the century. Many neighbors hauled some during the season — Jack Kellam, Cull Berryman, many others. Mr. Ben Odom ran a canning factory in the community several years — I remember working there at night — about 6 p.m. until midnight, peeling peaches, some by hand, some on peach peelers. I think he canned peas too.

Baptist Church built about 1907 (?). Burned many years later. In early years had Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist Churches — services once or twice a month at the churches so that most of the time after each had Sunday School all would attend which ever church had preaching that Sunday.

Some of us boys used to hunt up bottles (of certain sizes, etc.), clean them up, inside and out and sell them to the druggist (Mr. Charles Thorn was the first druggist

(Continued on Page 87)



Forty Men and Forty mules, more or less (You count them!). Scene at a "working" for Gene Newbill, spring of 1918. Colfax took care of its own in those days, and when a fellow had been sick and couldn't get his crop in, this is the kind of help he had.



Daniel M. N. McPhail (1826-1908) and wife Isabella Geddie McPhail 1832-1916) were among earliest settlers of Colfax; Parents of Lem; Shad, Jock, and Sam McPhail.



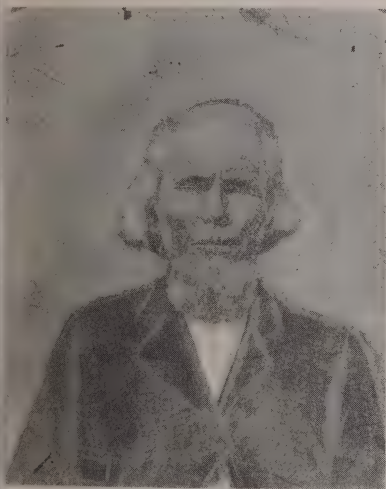
Aunt Mollie, wife of Uncle Andy White (1843-1923) mother of Will, Earl, Al and Pink White; one of Colfax's early day residents.



Four sons of Uncle Andy and Aunt Mollie White; left to right, Will White, Earl White, Al White, Pink White. Pink and Earl were Methodist ministers. Will and Al were life long farmers in Colfax Community. Picture in 1917.



The Will White Family, 1916; Front Row, Uncle Will, Ira (in his lap), Cammie, Aunt Ann, Anice, Tillie; Back Row, Sabra, Bidie, Newell, and Janie.



James Alexander Geddie, father to John Wesley Geddie, Henry C. Geddie, the lawyer, Allen Thomas Geddie, Will Geddie, and Asaleen Geddie Allen who came to Texas from Alabama in 1869.



Al White at Will White's Japanese persimmon tree.



Colfax School circa 1909. In Photo appear Annie Hendley, Johnnie and Margie Thorn, Mattie Hardegree, Annie Bailey and others.



The family of Jock McPhail and his wife nee Jewell M. Pollard. Left to right are Alvin, Vera, Fannie Bell and Shelvey C.



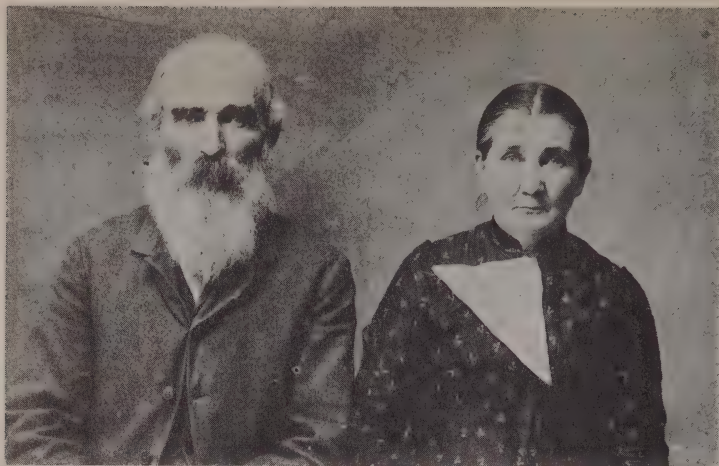
A group of Colfax belles, a choral group accompanied by male guitars, banjo, and fiddle.



Miss Maud White, who was married to Mr. Luther Tunnell. They were the parents of Noble White, and Bridges Tunnell.



Brady Gentry and his father, Ben Gentry, in 1936.



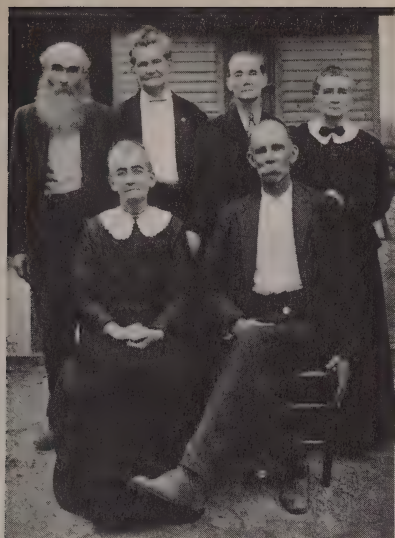
A. L. (Uncle Aleck) Kellam and wife Cornelia Ann Rusk (Aunt Coonie) Kellam; Uncle Aleck and Aunt Coonie were married in Nacogdoches, Texas and moved to the Colfax community sometime about 1860. Aleck Kellam donated seven acres of land jointly to the churches of Colfax.



Nannie Pollard, daughter of Jim and Sallie Pollard, and sister of Grover Pollard and Adie Pollard who married John W. Geddie.



An early picture of the Hick Terry family; Besides Mr. and Mrs. Terry are the three oldest children of the family, oldest to youngest in picture, Ethan Rusk, and Argin.



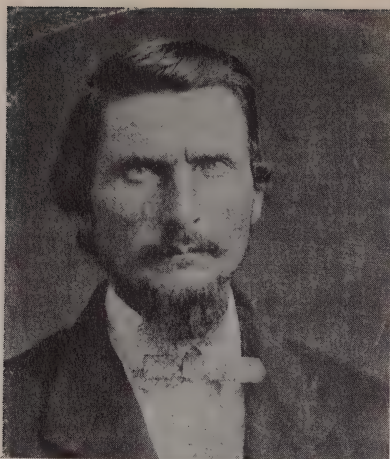
Front row: Mollie Hardegree Rusk and Thomas P. Rusk; Back Row: C. W. (Uncle Com-mie) Tunnell, Rebecca Rusk (Aunt Becky) Tunnell, Mary Rusk Kellis, and Cornelia (Aunt Connie) Rusk Kellam. Among the group are four of the children of Capt. J. C. Rusk, grand children of Gen. Thos. J. Rusk).

The seven sons of Uncle Com-mie and Aunt Becky Tunnell; Front row, left to right, Forrest, Clarence and Cullen; Back Row, left to right, Cicero, Leonard, Luther and Homer.



Colfax sixth and seventh grades Spring '26, Horace Stringer, teacher and, front row, left to right, Jack White, Searcy Berry, Mariam Fortune, Truman Tunnell, Helen Keahey, Tillman Walters, Mabel Burton, Truman Hardegree, Janie Bell McPhail, Sidney Thornton, Adene Attaway, Melvin Walters, Corine Fleetwood, Norma Stroud, ... Blackwell and Corine Geddie.

Back row, Anice White, Wendell Stringer, Bertha Lee Norwood, Grady Lester, Pauline Kellam, Luther Gee, Bess Norwood, Lucille Austin, Edward Smith, Eutelle Box, Sammie Lee Mc-Neill, Debbie Jackson, Red Blackwell, and Nell McMahon.



James Kellam Oakes (1844-1935) born in Mississippi, married Sarah Ann Pollard in 1869, moved to Colfax community in 1869. Father of Annie Oaks Matthews. Uncle Jim Oakes built a home of split logs that stood until 1936 when replaced by the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Matthews on the same site two and a half miles east of Colfax. Picture made about 1883.



Mr. and Mrs. Will Pollard and baby sons, left to right, Thomas G. Pollard and Allen Pollard. Tom Pollard grew up to become State Senator representing Colfax and Van Zandt County, and a prominent legal and political figure.



A group of Colfax young ladies, unidentified by editor, to whom picture was given by Lula McNeill.



Henry Clay Geddie, who loved Colfax. He was a lawyer, outstanding Methodist, and presided at many homecomings. He is buried at Colfax.



The family of James Newton and Sallie (Hefner) Pollard. In front are Grover and Nancy Roetta. In rear left to right are Porter, Dow and Docia. Not shown is Adie Pollard.



A gay outing by Colfax young people. From left to right are Dee Allen, Addie Lawrence, Frank Walters, Inez Peel, Minnie Gentry, Riley Tunnell, Earl White, Jess Walters, Epsie Gentry, Charlie Walters, Willie Peel, and Edie Rhines.



The family of John Wesley and Adie (Pollard) Geddie. In front is Bonner D. Geddie. Back row, left to right are Carl, Henry N. "Polie", and Prentice Geddie. Later children were Pauline, Clyde and Clifford.



Minnie Gentry, who married Earl White, Methodist minister.



Uncle Alex White and Wife together with Uncle John White and Wife and (far left) Aunt Becky Geddie; early residents of Colfax.



The "flappers" of Colfax in the "Roaring Twenties", minus short skirts but plus bloomers for the basketball court. Front row, Frances Thomas, Janie Bell McPhail, Mabel Burton, Helen Keahey. Avis Box; Back row, Virgil (Pacer) Morris, coach, Eutell Box, Estelle Martin, Mary Lee White, Elizabeth Thomas, and Lois Rucker, asst. Coach.



The sons of Daniel M. N. and Isabella McPhail; Sam (1873-1836) Shad (1870-1919) Lem (1867-1938) Jock (1865-1947); Picture about 1917 at Shad McPhail residence in Wills Point, Texas.



Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McEachern with their classes, 1914. Students are identified by number. (1) W. H. Oliver (2) Louis Kellam (3) Douglas Geddie (4) Birdie Tunnell Wilson (5) Austin Smith (6) Henry Matthews (7) Shad McNeill (8) Boots Fountain (9) Neul White (10) Felix Welmaker (11) Lid Smith (12) Alton Clark (13) Dr. N. D. Geddie (14) Rev. J. Frank Everett (15) Oaks Matthews (16) E. C. White (17) B. B. White (18) Milton Means (19) Hiram Brandon (20) Odie McNeill (21) Ernest Reynolds (22) White Tunnell (23) Leland Hardegree (24) Vera Hardegree Matthews (25) Annie Bailey Reaves (26) Lissie Stewart Dove (27) Eula Matthews Brandon (28) Ruthie Oliver White (29) Pearl Box (30) Argin Terry Rash (31) Lorene Rusk Smith (32) Ollie Bailey Hendley (33) Viola Gee Wilson (34) Annie Everett Clower (35) Annie Nichols (36) Inez Hardegree Hooks (37) Olivi McPhail Calder (38) Iris Keahey (39) Ethel Stewart Keahey (40) Minnie Oliver Mayne (41) Floy Keahey Hale (42) Jenny Stevens White (43) Fannie Kuykendall Geddie (44) Finis Reynolds Rowan (45) Julia Matthews Thornton (46) Mae Hale Clower (47) Blanche Skiles Teel (48) Mary Tunnell Wilson (49) Autrie Smith (50) Mable Walters (51) Floy Terry (52) Evie Everett Pratt (53) Ruth Matthews Brewer (54) Dove Kellam.



The front of the General Store of A. J. Berry and Son, Colfax.



Joshua and Catherine Ann (Geddie) Hallman, among the pioneers of the Owlet Green-Colfax communities.



Al and Leta White, as much a part of Colfax as Colfax itself.



Al White is surprised getting some milk for his breakfast.



Samuel Wilson (1850-1935) and Martha Wilson (1852-1951), Parents of Harry Wilson (dec.). Goodridge Wilson (dec.), Sam Wilson (dec.) Sadie Wilson and Helson Wilson (Rainey) of San Antonio, Texas and B. F. (Uncle Ben) Wilson of Colfax. Picture made about 1900 when they moved to Browning and Colfax communities from Missouri. Samuel Wilson was an elder in the Presbyterian church and clerk of the session for thirty-six years.



The Ped Loper family at their home three miles northwest of Colfax together with their children, 1 to r., Pink, Forrest, Nep, Lillian, twins Merl and Maude, and Amelia. Mrs. Ped Loper was born Lela White, sister to Pink and Earl White.

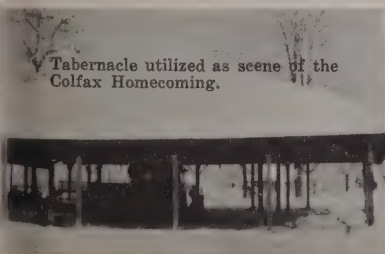


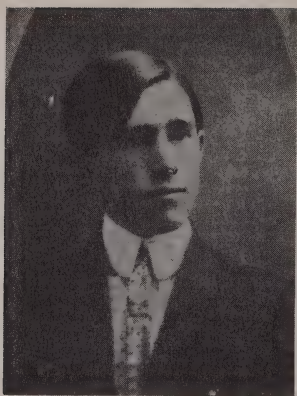
The family of G. W. Reynolds, Sr., from left to right, George, Sr., George Jr., Renia who married a Stroud; Finis, who married Rowder; Artimica, who married Kirkpatrick; Ella who married Walters; Leonie, who married a Stoud; Mrs. George Reynolds Sr.; and Ernest Reynolds.

Clarence Berry, the son of Jackson and Lois Berry was born in Colfax. Today he is the Chairman of the Board of Berry Cigar and Candy Co., Tyler, and President P.H.S. Tobacco Co., in Houston, Texas. He is Treasurer and Past President of the Texas Association of Tobacco Distributors, past Board Chairman of the National Association of Tobacco Distributors, served as departmental vice president, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, is a director of the Tyler Rotary Club, member of the First Presbyterian Church, of Tyler, Texas, and is a member of St. John's Lodge and Sharon Temple, of Tyler.

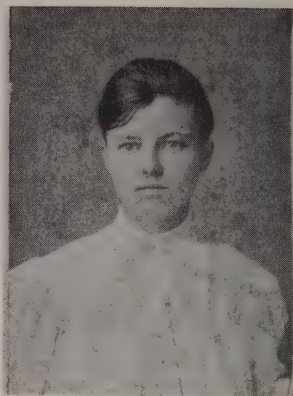


Tabernacle utilized as scene of the Colfax Homecoming.





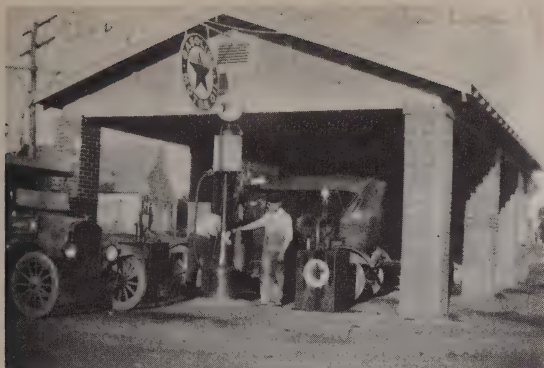
Jackson Berry in
his wedding
photograph.



Mrs. Jackson Berry
whose maiden name
was Lois Lloyd in her
wedding photograph.

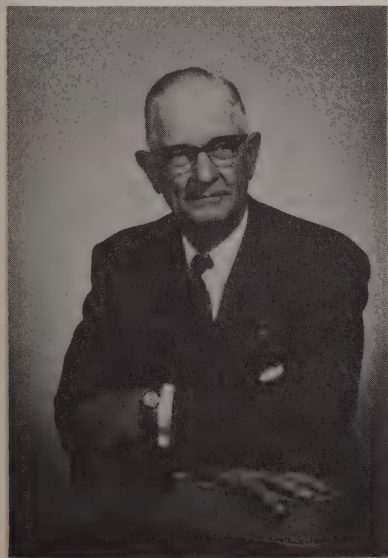


The Gin of Jackson Berry, Colfax, Texas, showing the agricultural
products of the early days.



The Jackson Berry Service and Gas Station, Colfax, showing early models of the Model T Ford.

Jackson Berry had a fleet of Model T Trucks in which he went out and picked up farmer's cotton to gin. Here is a scene in the 1920's in Colfax.



John Rusk "Cap" Terry was born in Colfax on June 19, 1898, the son of S. T. and Anna Amelia Terry. All of his schooling was completed in Colfax, except for a certificate he obtained from the Tyler Commercial College. On finishing he was employed by the McGrain Motor Co., in Grand Saline for 10 years. In 1929, he purchased the Chevrolet dealership in Grand Saline and sold it in 1932. In June the same year, he established an automotive parts business in Dallas, in the Oak Cliff area. He is a director of the Oak Cliff Bank and Trust Co., a member of the official board of the Kessler Methodist Church, and former member of the Dallas City Council. He has attained eminent success in the business world.

Gentry Congratulated on Appointment



Brady P. Gentry is shown receiving telegrams of congratulations received as a result of his appointment as Chairman of the Texas State Highway Commission in 1939.



At left is a photo of Brady P. Gentry, information about whom appears under "Gentry Family," on page 103.



Mastin Gentry White, has close ties with Colfax. He is also one of its most accomplished former residents. Mastin was a wholly self-supporting student at the University of Texas, where he ranked in the upper 10% of his law class in scholarship, and was elected to be an editor of the Texas Law Review. On graduation, he was elected to the Order of the Coif. During his student days, he was elected to several honorary fraternities, including Phi Delta Phi, legal fraternity, Delta Sigma Rho, public speaking fraternity, and Alpha Psi Omega, dramatic fraternity. He was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity. Because of his scholarship record at the Uni-

versity of Texas, he was awarded a University Scholarship at Columbia University, from which he received a Master of Law degree. Later, he was awarded the Brandeis Research Fellowship at Harvard University, where he took the degree of Doctor of Judicial Science. Mastin was a member of the University of Texas faculty before entering Federal Service in 1933 as a special assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. At the age of 34, he became Solicitor, i. e., chief law officer, for the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Later, he was made Solicitor for the U. S. Department of Interior. Between the two jobs, he served as a Colonel in the United States Army during World War II. For the last eight years, he has been a Trial Commissioner for the United States Court of Claims, going about the country hearing claims that people have against the Federal government. Mastin married Marjorie Delight Perry in 1929.



Top, left to right: Newell White, Bidy White, and Crespie White. Bottom row: Janie White and Clovis White.

Forest Truman Tunnell, chairman of the Colfax Homecoming Committee under whose service this book is being published, was born Oct. 25, 1915 at Colfax, the son of Clarence Rusk and Aline Woods Tunnell. He attended school at Colfax and Grand Saline, and College at the North Tex. State Teachers College. He married Jean Wilson of Ben Wheeler, and they are the parents of Joan, 17, and Forest Truman, Jr., 14. Truman spent 20 years in business in Dallas, five years working for the National Lead Co., and fifteen years in the smelting business on his own. In 1959, he returned to Van, and now is in the ranching business, running a spread on acreage in Colfax and Van communities.



Floyd B. Pitts was born in Cherry Creek Community, Pontotoc County, Mississippi. His family came to the Colfax community in the Fall of 1901. He moved to Grand Saline in 1911, and went to Dallas in 1916. He worked and attended college. During the first World War, he served two years in the army, 11 months overseas. He was on the legal staff of a major corporation in Dallas until his retirement in 1960, and he moved to Van in 1961, and recently was elected Mayor of the city. He married Patty McLeod, formerly of Grand Saline, in Dallas, in 1919. They have one son, Floyd B. Pitts, Jr., who now lives in Dallas.



Top row: Maude White who married Luther Tunnell, parents of Noble, White and Bridges Tunnell; Lyda Allen who married Al Conner, Lottie Rusk who married Walters, Johnnie Mathews who married Rev. Sam McPhail, and Lottie Graham. Bottom row: Carrie Gentry who married Osce Terry, Erma May Allen who married Sam Hedley.

Levi McPhail, as a young man. Levi married Daisy Terry, daughter of Albert and Fanny Terry. He was a great bird hunter during his youthful days in Colfax, raising some fine bird dogs. He is the son of Uncle Dobbin McPhail.



Erma May Allen, daughter of Clint and Asaleen (Geddie) Allen. Erma May was the sister of Lyda and Leta Allen. Lyda married Conner and Leta is the wife of Al White. Erma May married Sam Hendley, and they were parents of Marshall "Jack", and Grady Hendley.



Photo made at Colfax in the early 1900's. Top row, left to right: Lewis Kellis, Frank Walters, Buddy Rusk, Sam Hendley, Jess Walters, Jess Cawley. Second row, left to right: Leona Reynolds who married Stroud, Clara Rusk, who married Kirkpatrick, Neeley Kellis who married Peel, Daisy Terry who married Levi McPhail, Lyda Allen who married Al Connor, Pearl Terry who married Walters, and Lottie Rusk who married Walters. Bottom row, left to right: Ella Reynolds who married Walters, Maud Hines who married Rusk, Johnnie Hines who married Thorn, Artemisa Reynolds who married Kirkpatrick, Maude White who married Tunnell, and Rosebud Terry who married Graham. Two men not shown in the picture were Sam D. Terry and Osce Terry.



Three couples in old time Colfax: Levi and Daisy (Terry) McPhail, James B. and Bert (Hendley) Attaway, Nat Henderson, and Lottie (Rusk) Walters.

(Continued from Page 64)

I remember — succeeded after several years by Mr. Andrew McMahon) for his use in filling prescriptions. We got 1c per bottle, usually in trade. We made a little spending money that way. We had no allowance in those days.

The first school house I remember and in which I first attended school about 1903 was a two-story frame, to which a side addition was added. My first teacher was Mr. Leonard Tunnell. That school house burned one winter (about 1907). It burned one night, probably shortly after midnight, as there were embers at school time the next morning. We had no telephones that year, so we didn't learn of the burning. I went to school as usual and found the school house burned down. The school year was finished in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The Presbyterian Church was about where the tabernacle is now. Possibly the Baptist Church was used some too. It was up the Oakland road about a couple of blocks in distance from other churches. New school building was built following year, which was a frame of about 4 rooms. I think it burned some years later and was replaced by a brick building which was used until Colfax school was consolidated with Van school district. My teachers were Mr. Leonard Tunnell, Miss Annie Wood, Miss Mattie Hardegree, Mr. J. A. Graham, Mr. Malcolm McEachern and Mr. Gray.

Mr. Ben Odom's father, a widower when I knew him had an Edison graphophone, cylinder records and big "Morning Glory" horn, the first phonograph I ever saw and the only one in the community. It was his delight to visit the neighbors in his buggy (with the talking machine and records in the buggy and a colt tied along side its mother) overnight, and play records for them. It was an exciting evening for us when he made it around to our house. Incidentally, the colt's name was "Boy," and "Boy" went right along every where the buggy went.

In the early years of the 1900's men over 21 years of age were subject to 3 days work a year (or maybe it was every 6 months) on the public roads. There was an overseer appointed by the county for each District and notices would be sent summoning the men to a certain section on a certain day, to bring designated tools and implements and teams to

work the roads. Some would bring teams, some plows, some axes, hoes, shovels, etc., and work together on the roads.

Neighbors helped each other in those times. Swap work, etc. When a neighbor was sick, the others would gather and plant, work-out or gather his crop for him. And they enjoyed doing those things. When someone lost a mule or horse, money would be made up often times to buy another animal. They would loan each other milk cows to keep for needed milk and butter. When a house burned, wagons would go up and down the roads of the community gathering furnishings, clothing, etc. to supply the need and often times neighbors would go to the saw mills and bring lumber and put up a new house for the unfortunate neighbor. And somebody in the community would kill a beef at intervals and put it in a wagon and follow the roads and sell it out. Usually it would be announced ahead of time who would kill a beef and sometimes it would all be spoken for before the killing. Fresh beef was fairly regularly provided for the people. Then, of course, there was hog killing time when the weather was cold enough; and when one killed, he would divide with his near neighbors, if they needed fresh pork. Then when they killed, they would divide, or pay back, what they had got sometime before.

Then there were "protracted meetings" to attend, when the babies would be put on pallets in the isles to sleep through the evening service. That is when they would quit crying and go to sleep. Sometimes they would be bedded down in the wagon, especially the older babies and little folks, with some one to stay outside the church to look after those who might wake up to keep them from falling out of the wagon.

Also there were Fourth of July Celebrations, which were big events in Colfax community. Soda pop, lemonade and ice cream stands would be set up. The soda pop was in the old fashioned pop bottles — push the stopper in with a bang. I used to turn ice cream freezers for a little saucer of ice cream. Not having spending money, it was work for it or do without. I remember one "Fourth" when Congressman Gordon Russell was the speaker. He was the first and only Congressman I ever saw until I was grown. I followed him around with open mouth, taking in every word he said. That was a great day in my life.

Colfax was a baseball community. Every Saturday afternoon in season and special days of celebration had a baseball game. The young men — good players — would play teams from surrounding communities — as far away as Pruitt, Carroll, Ben Wheeler, Martin's Mill, Canton, etc. Walter Pitts, Sam Terry, Osce Terry, Nat Clark, and others were as good as semi-professional players in those times.

I remember several preachers who preached in Colfax Churches — Bros. Carr, Allen, McLeod, Quinlan, among the Baptists — Bro. Johns, Presbyterian, and Bro. Coppage and other Methodist pastors. Bro. Marshall Meadows of Tyler held a tent meeting — about 2 weeks duration — which was most effective, about 1907 or 1908.

Our school organized a literary society which met every other Friday night, or thereabouts. There were debates, skits, playlets, recitations, spelling matches, etc. And sometimes there would be a big spelling match on Friday afternoons when parents would come to hear the family pride and joy miss words!

The young people would have parties, ice cream suppers, pound suppers, on Friday nights. They would on Sunday get some home to give a party the following Friday night. They played "Snap," a popular and exciting game — sometimes having several games going at the same time in the house and in the yard when weather was favorable for the yard games.

I remember Dr. Will Terry, a native of Colfax, who later moved to Grand Saline where he practiced medicine until his death. Also Dr. Jesse McMahon who lived at Mt. Gibson (which community became a part of Colfax community after the Mt. Gibson school was discontinued.)

Of course, there was the old swimming holes, and 'possum hunts we young ones liked so much. Many tall tales were spun around a burning brush pile away in the woods somewhere when we rested from 'possum hunting. We liked the ghost stories, until we were half afraid to get away from the light of the fire.

One summer afternoon my father and I were burning some brush piles in the new ground. I was "barefooted" and stepped on a "ground rattlesnake" which bit me on the left foot. My father killed the snake, then sucked blood

from the bite and we started the half mile or so to the house. I made it all right — ate supper, was doctored with home remedies, went to bed. The pain was not excessive at first, but about 10 p.m. it became intense — I became sick — my leg, almost to my hip, turned green and swelled almost twice normal size. I was in bed almost 2 weeks — sick, vomiting, and could't walk without a crutch (homemade) for a week after I was out of bed. Through it all we never had a doctor or bought any medicine. We had to be tough as a boot to make it in those days. There were several narrow escapes — such as falling off wagon almost under wheel — team running away — falling off horses — kicks by horses and mules — feet stepped on by them, foot cut by axe — how did rough neck boys ever make it in those days when we walked up to 3 miles each way to school in all sorts of weather — sleet, snow, rain, mud, etc. and on top of all that, getting hit by baseballs, breath knocked out of us playing "Wolf over the River," "Whip cracker," and being pushed around and tricked in general by the big boys. But those were good days — I thought. Colfax was the center of civilization — to my young dreamy mind it was a perfect community. And the people were faultless. Colfax, a great community, made great by great folks.

By Idel Kellam

Following are some of the heads of families who, at one time or another, have lived or traded in Colfax:

Alex Austin	Houston Ballard	Wyman Brickey
John Allen	Charlie Blackwell	Bud Boatwright
Dee Allen	Will Bailey	Jack Berry
Jim Allen	John Box	Booster Box
T. J. Austin	Uncle Bill Box	Cranfil Box
Noble Austin	Elliot Box	Dr. John Box
Marlin Austin	Jim Box	Terrell Box
Clint Allen	Cull Berryman	Garland Brandon
Vernon Brandon	Floyce Berryman	Tom Brittain
Denson Brandon	Robert Berryman	Warren Brittain
Hiram Brandon	Paul Berryman	Jim Bryant
Will Brandon	Bob Ballard	Eddie Cone
Bud Ballard	Howard Ballard	Bill Cone
Ben Ballard	Robenia Ballard	Allen Cone
Bill Ballard	Beechie Ballard	Noah Clements
Brady Ballard	Henry Brickey	Allen Clements

Alcia Clements	Bill Fountain	Oscar Horton
Grady Clements	Hoyt Fountain	Otto Hendley
Bud Clements	Jim Fountain	Thermond Hendley
Harley Clements	Clyde Fortune	Archuless Huddle
Alton Clark	"Boots" Fountain	George Huddle
Dr. V. B. Cozby	Martin Geddie	Cecil Huddle
Jim Crosby	Dr. Tommy Geddie	Irvin Huddle
Albert Calloway	Arthur Geddie	Bonnie Hendley
Claud Cozby	Douglas Geddie	Ross Hendley
Mr. C. C. Caldwell	Dr. Nolan Geddie	Truman Hardegree
Uncle Wade Chancellor	Ben Gentry	Loye Hendley
Jim Colley	Brady Gentry	Charles Hendley, Jr.
Jack Corby	Charlie Graham	Ashley Hendley
Edd Calloway	Jim Graham	Eddie Hitt
Wayne Calloway	Jesse Graham	Milton Hitt
Harry Calloway	John Graham	Bro. Will Johns
E. W. Calloway	Rev. Griffin	Dr. Jeter
Thomas Calloway	Tom Geddie, Sr.	John Kirkpatrick
L. V. (Squirrely)	John Geddie	Hugh Kirkpatrick
Castleberry	Polie Geddie	Robert Kirkpatrick
Blant Castleberry	John W. Geddie	Jim Kirkpatrick
Dr. Castleberry	John A. Geddie	Tinza Kirkpatrick
Bryce Calloway	Prof. J. A. Graham	Clifton Kellam
Marvis Calloway	Warren Goode	Lewis Kellam
Earl Clower	Jess Geddie	Jack Kellam
Arnie Clower	Frank Geddie	Bobby Kellam
Jess Clower	Robert Goode	Alex Kellam
Shannon Crow	Sam Godsey	Jim Kellam
Buster Davis	Will Goggins	Bill Kellam
S. C. Davis	Frank Hardegree	Johnnie Kellam
Haywood Davis	Edward Hardegree	Rev. Judge Kellam
Karl Dove	Dean Hardegree	George Kellam
Clarence Dove	Grady Hardegree	John Kellis
Joe Dove	Jerome Hardegree	Lewis Kellis
K. D. Dove	Leland Hardegree	Levi King
Doyle Dove	Levi Hendley	Floyd King
Charlie Downs	Warren Hendley	Tom King
Rev. N. M. Dawson	Charlie Hendley	Aaron Knight
Ped Everett	Hubert Hendley	Mr. Kinsey
Uncle Frank Everett	Sam Hendley	Arthur Kinsey
Frank Everett, Jr.	Need Hendley	Warren Kinsey
Leon Everett	Pert Hendley	Ollie Kirkpatrick
Marvin Everett	Will Hardigree	Andrew Kirkpatrick
Land Everett	Mr. Whit Hardigree	Virgil Kirkpatrick
Charlie Everett	Nat Henderson	Odel Kelley
Reuben Everett	J. D. Henderson	Clarence Kline
Rev. Frank Everett	Jack Hines	Clarence Kelley
Tom Everett	Arthur Hines	Otto Kelley
Charlie Fuller	Wiley Hardegree	George Kelley
Will Fortune	Will Huddle	Sam Keahey
Frank Fortune	Mr. Hansen	Hamp Keahey
Bud Fortune	Adam Huff	Levi Keahey
Charlie Fuller	Rev. Hornbeck	Andrew Keahey

Dr. Rusk Keahey	Uncle Daniel McPhail	Smith Peacock
Norton Keahey	Dobbin McPhail	Arnold Peacock
Shufford	Levi McPhail	Tom Peacock
Killingworth	Dock McNeill	Archie Peacock
Coy Keahey	Cam McNeill	Wash Reynolds
Dellis Keahey	Odie McNeill	George Reynolds
Newell Keahey	Shad McNeill	Mr. George
Woodrow Keahey	Sam McNeill	Reaves, Sr.
Royce Keahey	Archie McPhail	Tracy Reaves
Earlis Keahey	Jim McMillan	George Reeves
Frank Kellam	Daniel McMillan	Lois Reeves
Mr. Loper	David McMillan	Sam Reaves
Bob Loper	John McMillan	Uncle Tom Rusk
Bud Loper	Austin McPhail	Buddie Rusk
Ped Loper	Vyrone McGrady	Houston Rusk
Delton Loper	Dr. Jesse McMahon	Wash Reynolds
Finn Loper	Andrew McMahon	George Reynolds
Z. K. Lester	Homer McPhail	Jeff Reynolds
Tommy Lester	Graydon McPhail	Bradford Reynolds
Harley Lester	Mr. Morrison	Ernest Reynolds
Grady Lester	Thad Mullins	Dez Rash
Ray Lester	Felton Mullins	John Rash
David Large	F. M. Mullins	Peter Rush
Oscar Large	Bill Nichols	Jeff Ray
Tom Large	Gene Newbill	Surrey Ray
Mr. Lummus	Ben Odom	Henry Ray
Bill Lummus	Jesse Odom	Lucian Ray
Joe Lummus	J. K. Oakes	Tonnie Ray
Ray Lester	Ben Oliver	Bob Rusk
Tommie Lester	Luther Oliver	Harold Rusk
Henry Matthews	Jay Oliver	Harold Rash
Gene Matthews	Alfred Oliver	John T. Rash
John Matthews	Chaplain Oliver	G. W. Reaves
Thad Mullins	Si Oliver	Harry T. Reaves
Will Mayne	Shady Oliver	Chaplain Edward
Menard Mayne	Wendell Oliver	Reaves
Burnel Mayne	George Odom	Pink Shields
Arthur Mayne	Cooge Parks	Will Sanders
George Matthews	Bud Peel	Math Stroud
Charlie Matthews	Walter Pitts	Marvin Stroud
Hewitt Matthews	Aubrey Pitts	Price Stroud
John D. Matthews	Claude Pitts	Uncle Bob Stewart
Harold Matthews	Jake Pitts	Stephen Stewart
Floyd T. Matthews	Burr Pitts	Martin Stewart
Oaks Matthews	Will Pierce	Franklin Stewart
Maxin Matthews	Rev. Cletus Pippin	Cicero Steele
Wilson Matthews	T. J. Pippin	John Sanders
Rev. Virgil	Ben Pollard	Reuben Sanders
Matthews (Buddy)	Claud Pratt	Porter Sanders
Tom McPhail	Clyde Pratt	Ed Smith, Sr.
Sam McPhail	Abner H. Pitts	Elmo Steele
K. McPhail	Floyd Pitts	Claude Steele
David McPhail	Glover Pollard	Clyde Steele

Earl Steele	Albert Terry, Jr.	Rusk Vaughn
June Steele	Ocie Terry	Lester Vaughn
Austin Smith	Ed Terry	Henry Vaughn
Jesse Steele	Commodore W.	Boyd Vaughn
Bill Simmons	Tunnell	Tom Ed Vaughn
Ben Simmons	Cicero Tunnell	McKinley Vaughn
Scott Simmons	Leonard Tunnell	Oran Vaughn
Rev. Cob Smith	Homer Tunnell	Otto Van
J. K. Skiles	Luther Tunnell	Joe Van
Alva Skiles	Forrest Tunnell	Andy White
Virgil Skiles	Cullen Tunnell	Will White
Clarence Sligar	Clarence Tunnell	Rev. Pink White
Bill Stewart	Cow Taylor	Rev. Earl White
W. R. Stringer	Uncle R. O. Thorn	Noah Welmaker
Ebbie Stringer	Wash Townsend	Al White
J. M. D. Stephens	Will Townsend	Frank Wright
J. D. Stephens	Sam Terry, Sr.	Horace Wright
Edward Smith	S. D. Terry, Jr.	Ben Wright
Rube Swinney	Jesse Tomlin	Ed Wright
Austin Smith, Jr.	Riley Tunnell	Willis Wood
Floyd Smith	A. S. Tunnell	Antoine Woods
Leod Smith	Jess Tomlin	Grover Woods
John Thorn	Barney Tomlin	Sam Wilson
Rip Thorn	Will Thornton	Ben Wilson
Charlie Thorn	Charley Thornton	Farris Wilson
Cleave Thorn	General Thornton	Robert Wilson
Will Thorn	Johnny Thornton	Harry Wilson
Ed Thorn	Austin Thornton	Uncle Dick Walters
Mariam Thorn	Raymond Thornton	Frank Walters
Tate Thorn	Bluford Thornton	Tilman Walters
Jack Thorn	Deroy Tunnell	J. W. Walters
Jim Buck Thorn	Rev. Noble Tunnell	Jess Walters
Cleve Thorn	Bridges Tunnell	Joe Walters
Mr. Albert Terry	White Tunnell	Sidney Walters
Dr. Will Terry	David Tunnell	Melvin Walters
Floyd Terry	Tommy Tunnell	Willis Wilson
Ethan Terry	Rev. Sam Terry	Jack White
Rusk Terry	Sidney Terry	Crespie White
Sonny Leach Terry	Jack Terry	Newall White
Osce Terry	Johnnie Vaughn	Biddy White
Hick Terry	Tom Vaughn	Mastin White
		Rev. Jester White

ATTAWAY

Jimmie B. Attaway was born to Willis T. Attaway and Rebecca Neal Attaway, on April 30, 1882, near Edgewood, Texas. While only eight years of age, he lost his mother by death. There being five small children in this union, his dad, being a railroad man by trade, needed help in taking care of them. So he moved near Overton, Texas, where their

relatives lived. With the help of different ones, the children all grew up to adulthood. Jimmie being the second oldest, lived for awhile with an older sister who had married Doc Wilson. They decided to move to Van Zandt County to take up residency. Jimmie drove a pair of oxen along with his sister and family, who also drove a pair of oxen. This being a very slow method of travel, they were on the road through part of four days, camping by the roadside where night overtook. They arrived at their destination and lived for a year on the William Peel farm. The Wilsons grew dissatisfied, only stayed about a year, and returned to Overton. Jimmie wanted to stay in Van Zandt. Being a young boy, no family near, he hired to Uncle Fate Clower to help him on the farm in order to have a place to call home. The Clower homestead is now owned and used as The Pure Oil Tank Farm. Jimmie lived there for two years and then hired to Uncle Ben Gentry to help on the farm. He grew into manhood while living with Uncle Ben and Aunt Ginnie near Colfax, Texas. He lived in the Gentry home as a member of the Gentry family, hardly knowing the difference, as the Gentry children were near his age. He always felt as though he was one of the family. He loved and cherished the precious memories of the many kindnesses shown him by both the Gentry and Clower families.

As a young man he met and married Bertie B. Hendley, who also had been orphaned at an early age and who had been reared in the Warren J. Hendley home. Warren Hendley gave Bertie and her brother, Sammie, a home until they were grown and married. Jimmie and Bertie were married in 1902 and lived in the Colfax community for a few years then sold their small farm and bought another farm, located across the road from what is now the Pure Oil Tank Farm. Jimmie, loving to till the soil, never knew anything but raising cotton and cattle. As the years passed, he grew less able to farm, so he rented out his land. Bertie, in failing health for a number of years, was called home December 11, 1944 to be with her Master to whom she had been faithful since early womanhood. She was a woman who lived for her Lord and her family. To know her was to love her. To this union were born five children, one passing away in infancy. The children who are still

living are scattered. They are: Lora, Willis, Adene, and Florene.

In 1946 Jimmie was married to Mrs. Nona King. He was a natural born fisherman and as Nona loved to fish, they spent part of their thirteen years out fishing. In fact, on March 11, 1959, Jimmie suffered a stroke while out in a boat fishing. He and a good friend, Wilson Matthews, were out when he had the attack. Mr. Matthews brought him in and he was rushed to the hospital, but never did he make a turn for the better, and on March 19, 1959 his Savior, whom he had served for so many years, saw fit to call him home. He is now resting beside Bertie, in the Colfax Cemetery, from his many years of toil and trying to help his fellow man. He loved people and was always looking forward to making new friends. He had lots of friends but still had room for new ones.

BAILEY

W. J. "Will" Bailey came to Colfax community as a young man and in 1893 married Nora Daugherty. Among their children were:

Annie Bailey who married Tracy Reaves.

Ottie Bailey.

Christine Bailey who married Kellam.

W. J. Bailey owned the general merchandise store in Colfax, and it carried everything from food, dress material, to cow feed and gasoline. It was a gathering place for many of the old settlers, who had a running domino game going most of the time. Among the domino players were Bud Ballard, Jack and Bill Kellam, Al White and Bud Fortune.

BEGGS

The oldest of this Presbyterian Scottish-Irish family was Anny Miller Beggs, the great-great grandmother of the editor. She was born on a ship bringing her family to America from Ireland on February 5, 1800, settled in South Carolina and later migrated to Havana, Green County, Ala., where she married her husband, James Beggs. To them were born: Elizabeth Beggs, Jane Beggs, Mary Ann Beggs, Margaret Ann Beggs, James Washington Beggs, Luscinda Beggs, William Beggs, and Robert Beggs. Elizabeth married James A. Geddie, the editor's great grandparents. Jane

remained in Alabama where she was married to a McDonald. Mary Ann died as an infant in Alabama. James Washington Beggs fought through the Civil War for the Southern States and spent fifteen months in Rock Island prison in Illinois. He was hung up by the thumbs for dumping a guard whom he was forced to transport in a wheel cart. His life was saved when someone kicked a box under him so that he could rest himself. Luscinda Beggs never married. William Beggs also fought for the Confederacy. He left for war as a boy of 17. He was wounded in battle at Missionary Ridge and was taken to a haven for wounded soldiers. There his leg was amputated. Not wanting to be a burden on his mother for the rest of his life, he untied the dressing one night and bled to death. Robert Beggs also fought for the Southern States during the Civil War. He was last seen charging the breastworks of the Union Army, from which he took down the Stars and Stripes.

James Beggs, the husband of Anny Miller Beggs, died in Alabama long before the Civil War. During reconstruction days, thing got so bad that Anny Miller Beggs gathered her children, grandchildren and headed for Texas. In the party in that 1870 migration were Anny Miller Beggs, Luscinda Beggs, James Washington Beggs, his wife Sarah and their six children, Robert, Nathan, Mary, Fannie, James, and Betty, Robert Beggs' widow, with her children, Robert, Jr., and Josie Beggs; Lige Graham, and his widowed mother, Mrs. Graham, friends of the Beggs. They arrived in Van Zandt County, near Owlet Green, on Christmas Eve Day, 1870.

Anny Miller Beggs was a great church-goer, and a religious woman. She knew the Bible so well that camp meeting preachers in Colfax always looked at her for reassurance as they quoted the Bible in their sermons, because if they misquoted, Grandma Beggs would correct them in no uncertain terms.

She was a staunch, hard shelled Presbyterian. At Camp Meetings, it was the custom of everyone to kneel down while praying. But Grandma Beggs was of the old school. She had been taught to stand while praying, believed it a part of her religious creed to stand while praying, and stand she did, the only one who did so. Those who re-

member the old camp meetings said it was some sight — the great crowd all kneeling while there, tall and straight stood the old woman. But she had courage, and was not hardheaded, but was one of the most wonderfully kind persons ever to come to the community. It took six weeks for the trip from Alabama, and she walked — at the age of 70 — nearly every step of the way.

To James Washington and Sarah Beggs were born, after arriving in Texas, Dora, Cordella, George Beggs, and Jennie Beggs. George Beggs, now of Ben Wheeler, remembers all the events given here plainly, and he is the only surviving child of James Washington Beggs. James Washington Beggs was one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church at Tunnell's Chapel, and when the family moved to a farm between Martin's Mill and Ben Wheeler, his family remained loyal to the Tunnell's Chapel Presbyterian Church. He also helped found another Presbyterian Church south of Ben Wheeler.

Dora Beggs was married to Morgan Mitchell, Cordelia Beggs was married to Dr. Jim Blankenship, George R. Beggs married Ida Pearl Blankenship, and Jennie Beggs, who was a spinster until her mid-seventies, was married to Frank Kemp.

A. J. (JACK) BERRY

This account will deal principally with A. J. (Jack) Berry and his impact on the cotton growing community of Colfax in the "twenties" and "thirties." Jack Berry and his family moved to the Colfax community from adjoining Mt. Gibson community in the early twenties; he bought the Warren Hendley general merchandise store, later the drug store, built the first modern cotton gin in the country, then about 1928, built the second and adjoining cotton gin to process the prodigious crops of cotton then being grown in Colfax and surrounding communities.

Jack Berry, making use of a fleet of "Model T" trucks staffed with some of the most robust drivers in the community offered a new service to the farmers. The trucks would pick up seed cotton in the fields from miles around to haul to the gins that operated around the clock, day and night, until Saturday midnight. Sometimes, ginning would resume at Sunday midnight. The gin yard, covered

with fifty to seventy wagons loaded with seed cotton, was a familiar sight in those days.

The order of ginning was "first come, first served." Sometimes, a farmer, under the urgency of getting his cotton ginned to free his wagon for further loading in the field, would pay a dollar to his neighbor to set his place in the line. The Model T trucks hauled the bales of lint cotton to markets in Wills Point and Terrell, and as time would permit, the cotton seed to Terrell and Wills Point for processing. Cotton seed was traded "even Stephen" for cotton seed meal and brought back to Colfax from the mill. The cotton seed meal was excellent, both as cow feed and fertilizer for crops.

The cotton seed would fill the "seed house," pour out of the high access doors and form growing pyramids surrounding the seed house. This made something of a hazard for sleepy and overworked men. On one occasion, Jack Berry, while making an inspection tour of the premises at night, fell asleep and was found almost buried in cotton seed that doubtless would have resulted in suffocation except for the discovery of him.

Jack Berry was the "merchant extraordinary" in those days. His stores furnished the everyday needs of the community, much of it on credit until cotton harvest time, he bought and sold cotton, cotton seed, provided the transportation with the Model T's, including cordwood to power the steam engines for the gins, had the time and the interest to send crates of apples to the school house for the children at Christmas time.

It is said that, on one occasion, when funds were being raised for a church project, Jack said, "In church work, there's always the need for those to do the praying and for those to do the paying. I believe it's my place to help with the paying." Adverse weather conditions coupled with the depression of the late twenties and early thirties brought almost a sudden halt to cotton growing and ginning at Colfax. Mr. Berry is said to have remarked then, "I think now I must join those who are doing the praying."

The heyday of the Colfax cotton economy was past, and soon almost none was grown. The gin lots now are vacant, and the present owners of the two acres across from the cemetery, Harvey Lee Carraway and his wife, Louise Berry

Carraway, youngest daughter of Jack Berry, are donating this old gin lot to the community for addition to the cemetery.

It has been said of many East Texas communities that "Nothing is getting bigger there now except the cemetery" and this is literally true of the present day Colfax: the spot that was once the site of beehive activity will soon be a place of perpetual rest.

CLARK

James Addison Clark was one of the real pioneers of Van Zandt County. He came to the area near Van and Owlet Green in 1848, the year Van Zandt County was formed. On his arrival, he was 18 years old. His wife, whom he had married in Alabama, was only 16. They came by way of covered wagon, and when they arrived, he only had 50c in money, the covered wagon and his wife. He settled land to gain title to it, and prospered. After 23 years in Texas, his wife died, and he returned to Alabama to get married again. Back to Texas, he became the father of the following children:

Lonnie B. Clark;

Dee Clark, who married Bertha Stewart, the parents of Dee and Alton Clark;

Addie Clark, who was married to Henry B. Nowlin, the parents of Harold C. Nowlin, well known real estate man of Fort Worth, who married Alice Taylor, and Bryant Nowlin, chemical manufacturer of Fort Worth, who married Phyllis Tenney;

J. Gordon Clark who married Lucille Boyette, the parents of Virginia Clark, who was married to P. D. Henry, widely known real estate developer in Fort Worth.

James Addison Clark was born in Talladega County, Alabama. During the Civil War, he served the Confederate Army, and was captured. He escaped, and returned to Van Zandt County, to serve as its Tax Assessor and Sheriff. He was well known as Uncle Add Clark.

COZBY

C. C. Cozby was the first of this family in Colfax vicinity. He married Sallie Mayne and their children were Vaneverie Bascom Cozby, who was born in 1871, and who became one of Van Zandt's outstanding doctors of medicine,

known largely by his initials, Dr. V. B. Cozby: Willie Cozby, who married A. C. Knight; and Claude Cozby, who married Tennie Knight. C. C. Cozby was killed while working on a railroad construction crew.

Dr. V. B. Cozby married a Colfax native, Miss Lennie Kirkpatrick, daughter of John Kirkpatrick, and to them were born Raymond Cozby, who became a doctor of medicine. Ruby Cozby who married Owen Kuykendall; Ruth Cozby, who married Gervice Archer; and Harold Cozby who was born in 1901, and who died in 1955.

Dr. V. B. and Lennie Cozby were prominent Van Zandt County citizens all their lives, entering into social, civic, church and other community activities with full zest. Dr. Cozby was Mayor of Grand Saline as long as he lived. No man would run against him. Never once did he seek the office. The citizens sought him out and demanded he serve. Lennie Cozby was known widely for her church, civic and social club activities. Dr. V. B. Cozby taught school and farmed in Colfax while attending the Southwest Medical School in Dallas. He was also the first worshipful master of the Colfax Masonic Lodge.

GEDDIE

There were two families of Geddies in Colfax and Owlet Green communities. Both the family heads were named James Alexander Geddie, and both were born in North Carolina. Their fathers were brothers, and they were the grandsons of James Daniel Geddie, who migrated from Scotland to Cumberland County, North Carolina, and participated in the Revolutionary War in the North Carolina Militia. The first Geddie to arrive in Texas (in 1853) was James Alexander Geddie, son of "Big" John Geddie, of Cumberland County, N.C. He was called "Big" because he weighed 350 pounds in his prime and could whip any man in North Carolina in a wrestling match. This is not legend, it is fact. He could also "out-log" any man in a log-rolling contest. This has been verified by memories of old timers in North Carolina. Big John owned extensive land and numerous slaves in the early days of North Carolina.

James Alexander Geddie married Mary Margaret McPhail, sister of Thomas McPhail and Archibald McPhail. They were ardent Scot Presbyterians, and active members

of the Old Bluff Presbyterian Church, near Wade, North Carolina, just east of Fayetteville, N.C. There is recorded in the minutes of that church the date of the departure of these well-liked families for Texas. James Alexander Geddie and his wife Mary Margaret were parents of Isabella Geddie who married Daniel McNeill McPhail; Catherine Ann Geddie who married Joshua Hallman; Thomas A. Geddie who married Margaret Frances Wisdom; John Alexander Geddie, who married Mollie J. Wisdom, the grandparents of Dr. Nolen Geddie and Douglas Geddie; William Robert Geddie, who married Charlotte Graham; Dougald Geddie who died in 1862 unmarried; James Allen Geddie, who married Rebecca Jane White; Sarah Elizabeth Geddie who was born in North Carolina, and died as the family trekked across the Southern United States in covered wagons; Mary Elizabeth Geddie who died in North Carolina at the age of 9 months, and a baby stillborn in North Carolina in 1843. Among the descendants of this family of Geddies are those well known to Colfax, in addition to Douglas Geddie and Dr. Nolen Geddie, Tommie Geddie, Willy Geddie, Mable Geddie Keahey, Corine Geddie Foster, Katherine Geddie Peek, Una Faye Geddie Hobbs, and numerous others. James Alexander and Mary Margaret Geddie obtained a headright grant of land near Owlet Green, where they settled in 1853.

The second Geddie family to settle in the area was headed by James Alexander Geddie, son of Thomas Geddie (Big John's brother), who migrated first to Alabama, where he was an accomplished wagonmaker and built many of the covered wagons in which settlers migrated westward. James Alexander Geddie's children were born in Alabama to his union with Elizabeth Beggs. After the Civil War, in 1869, he loaded his entire family into a covered wagon and headed for Texas. He settled first near Owlet Green in proximity to his first cousin, and later moved to a permanent farm on the Garden Valley-Canton Road, north of Owlet Green and slightly northeast of Colfax. His farm was purchased from J. B. and Mary Scarborough and J. G. Ellison in the W. H. Hazelwood Survey. The oldtimers called him Alabama Jim, to differentiate him from his first cousin by the same name whom they called Tarheel

Jim. James Alexander and Elizabeth Beggs Geddies were parents of Asaleen Tarissa, who married Clint Allen, parents of Leta White and Lyda Conner. Allen Thomas Geddies, who married Charlotte Anne Allen, parents of Ida Peel, James Robert Geddies who died in childhood, William Hiram Geddies, who married Lula Mosley, parents of Frank Geddies, Oscar Geddies, and other children, John Wesley Geddies, who married Adie Pollard, parents of H. N. "Polie" Geddies (the editor's father), Prentice Geddies, Bonner Geddies, Clifford McGuire, Clyde Tunnell, Carl Geddies, Pauline Payne.

This is by no means the complete genealogy of the Geddies family. The complete genealogy has been recorded in a book. Space here does not permit the enumeration of all the progeny of these two Geddies, who were pioneers in the Colfax area.

GENTRY FAMILY

By Mastin G. White

The Gentry family in America was founded by two brothers, Nicholas and Samuel Gentry. They were born in England, served in the British Army, and were sent as soldiers to the Colony of Virginia to help suppress Bacon's Rebellion. After their terms of service in the British Army were completed, they remained in Virginia and settled in New Kent County in 1684.

Daniel Harrison Gentry was born in Virginia in 1820. As a teenage youth, he went to Alabama, and lived for a number of years near Opelika. Later, he moved to the Owlet Green Community in Van Zandt County, Texas. He married Mary Epsie Rowland. (He married a second time a Mary —). Daniel Harrison and Mary Epsie Gentry were the parents of:

Thomas O. Gentry, who served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier and died of wounds received in the Battle of Atlanta;

George B. Gentry, who died before maturity;

Daniel I. Gentry, who died as a baby;

Mary B. Gentry, who died as a small child.

Benjamin Whitfield Gentry, who married Virginia C. (Ginny) McPhail, the parents of Cora, who married Ed Hardegree; Carrie who married Osce Terry; Minnie who married the Rev. Earl White; Mary Epsie who married

Chas. S. Thorn; David who died at age 7; and Brady Preston Gentry, who later was County Attorney of Smith County, County Judge of Smith County, Chairman of the Texas State Highway Commission, and Member of the United States Congress from the Third Congressional District of Texas.

James O. Gentry who married Sarah King and lived near Van.

Brady Preston Gentry, who died as a young man.

J. William (Willie) Gentry who married Laura Goode, and then after her death, married Susan Rusk. He served two terms as Sheriff of Van Zandt County.

Lou E. Gentry, who married James "Jim" Bryant, lived near Owlet Green, and later near Pruitt.

My maternal grandparents, Benjamin Whitfield and Virginia Carolina Gentry, moved to the Colfax community in the 1880's. They both lived in the Owlet Green community before their marriage. When my maternal grandparents were married, they first settled on a farm near Owlet Green. Later, they moved to Colfax because of its churches and school. Their first farm near Colfax was a place known in the family as the Rocky Hill which later was sold to Mr. Stephen Stewart. From the Rocky Hill farm, my grandparents moved to a farm nearer the center of the community, on what was then the Grand Saline road. They lived until their children grew up and left home, and until my grandfather retired from farming. After my grandfather's retirement, they moved to Tyler. Both are buried in the Colfax cemetery.

BRADY PRESTON GENTRY

No one ever came out of Colfax with a more magnanimous personality than Brady Preston Gentry. the son of Ben W. and Virginia Caroline (McPhail) Gentry. One of his teachers in elementary school predicted Brady would one day become a congressman, and became a congressman he did. Brady grew up in Colfax, close to the earth which his father farmed, and close to the people who lived in the community. The people of Colfax took Brady Gentry to their heart, and there they have held him all his life. If there ever were a "favorite" son of Colfax, it is indisputably Brady Preston Gentry.

At an early age, Brady Gentry chose politics as a pro-

fession. He became an assistant tax assessor-collector for Van Zandt County. After moving with his family to Tyler, he became assistant city treasurer. Then, he was elected two terms as County Attorney of Smith County. He suffered a period of ill health and retired from work. Returning to Tyler, he entered the race for County Judge and won it. He took office Jan. 1, 1931, the same day that the East Texas oil field came in. Brady was the county's chief administrative officer during which the valuation of the county jumped from \$16,000,000 to over \$34,000,000, and at a period during which the county tax rate was slashed from \$1.40 per \$100 valuation to 70c per \$100 valuation. His tenure as County Judge won wide plaudits for the efficiency and effectiveness of his administration. He was responsible for building most of the modern, paved roads in Smith County.

As Chairman of the Texas Highway Commission, Brady Gentry's influence was felt in all aspects of highway construction and planning throughout Texas, and some of the policies he caused to be instituted during his tenure are being felt twenty-three years later. After serving as Chairman of the Texas Highway Commission, Brady Gentry offered himself as a candidate for the United States Congress from the district made up of Smith, Van Zandt, Wood, Upshur and other counties, and was elected. He served two terms as Congressman, fulfilling the prophecy by his school master, J. A. Graham, that one day he would serve in the Congress of the United States.

Brady Gentry played basketball in Colfax, and became a great lover of sports. He has sent dozens of talented players into the sport of basketball, and has encouraged players in every other sport. He is vastly interested in golf, and numbers most of the nation's top golfers as his friends. He is an interested spectator at some of the nation's top golf tournaments.

To the people of Colfax, past or present, and to everyone everywhere who has known him, Brady Gentry is "home folks."

GRAHAM

John Anderson Graham came to Colfax in 1904, and there he met Miss Rosebud Terry. They were married on May 9, 1906. J. A. Graham was born in Limestone County,

near Athens, Alabama, on August 14, 1873, and came to Texas in 1896, settling near Wills Point. He attended East Texas State Teachers College when it was known as Teacher's Normal, in Commerce, Texas. He taught Colfax school for three years after his marriage, and the first two of his children were born in Colfax. He became principal of Grand Saline Schools, and later attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos. In later years, the Graham family returned to Van Zandt County when J. A. Graham became superintendent of schools in Canton.

One of Mr. Graham's favorite pupils in Colfax was Brady P. Gentry. As a young child in elementary school, Brady Gentry made such a wonderful impression on J. A. Graham that the teacher predicted Gentry one day would become a United States Congressman. Mr. Graham lived to see his prediction come true, and the teacher-student friendship lasted until Mr. Graham's death, on May 17, 1958. Mr. Gentry was with the Graham family when the end came.

The children of J. A. and Rosebud Graham are:

Terry Graham, an attorney in Tyler.

Harry Graham, with the American Manufacturing Co., in Fort Worth.

Ruth Graham, who married Lloyd Shockley, in Fort Worth.

Woodrow Graham, department head with Leonard's in Fort Worth.

Mildred Graham, who married W. A. Short in Tyler.

J. A. Graham, Jr., a builder in Tyler, Texas.

Doris Graham, who married Dr. Van Kaden, a surgeon in Greenville, Texas.

HALLMAN

The first of this family to settle in the Owlet Green Community was Daniel Hallman and his family. Among his children were:

Joshua Hallman, who married Catherine Ann Geddie, and reared a large and distinguished family.

Daniel Hallman.

Richard Hallman.

Unfortunately, the editor has very little information on

any of this family except that of Joshua Hallman whose progeny now encompasses the families of Cox, Hooper, a vast number of Hallmans, Terry, Stillwell, Sanders, Wilson, Duke, Boyd, Slaughter, Clark, Pennington, and others. Catherine Ann Geddie was the daughter of James Alexander and Mary Margaret (McPhail) Geddie. She was born in Cumberland County, N.C., in 1833, and with her family was a member of the Old Bluff Presbyterian Church near Wade, N.C. She migrated to Texas with her family, which settled an original grant near Owlet Green in 1853, having been two years making the journey from North Carolina.

Joshua Hallman was a fine, upstanding man of high religious principles, and a stalwart pillar of the communities of Owlet Green and Colfax.

The complete genealogical record of this family is contained in the Geddie and McPhail Genealogy.

KEAHEY

John Keahey migrated from Alabama to Texas, settling near Edom. His sons were Martin Andrew Keahey, and George Norton Keahey.

Andrew Keahey married Retha Rusk, daughter of John Cleveland Rusk, and grand daughter of General Thomas J. Rusk. Their children were Lena Keahey, who was married to T. B. Mullins, and their children were F. M. Mullins who married Celeste Barlow, Louise Mullins who married Brady Ballard, Jake Mullins who married Verla Mills; Floy Keahey who was married to Earl White, and their children were Lucille, Glenn, and Verdis White; John Clifford Keahey, who was killed in France during World War I; Myrtice Keahey, who was married to Ernest Ryter, parents of Ernestine and Robert Lee Ryter; Lora Keahey who was married to Odie McNeill, parents of Melba Joy; Thomas Rusk Keahey, who married Mabel Geddie, daughter of Arthur Geddie, parents of Kathy Keahey; Norton Keahey, who married Lora Attaway, daughter of Jim Attaway; Mary Helen Keahey, who was married to Orville Browning, parents of Shirley Browning.

John Keahey had a brother named Sam Keahey, who was the father of Hamp Keahey, Levi Keahey, who married Mary Jane Geddie, daughter of John Geddie, and Dellas Keahey.

Andrew Keahey had four sisters, Mary, who married Jake Tennin, Betty who married Joe Wynn, Olivia who married Bob Deaver, and Camelia who married Al Conner.

KELLAM

Alexander Kellam was the head of this Colfax family. He married Cornelia Rusk, and their children were Henry, unmarried, a daughter Laney who married John D. Matthews, William "Bill" Kellam who married Tishy Reynolds, Jack Kellam who married Idel Steele, Julia Kellam who married Dr. T. P. Davis, Jim Kellam who was unmarried. The children of Jack and Idel Kellam were J. C. Cliff Kellam and Alexander Louis Kellam.

Cliff Kellam married Sybil Dowell and they are parents of Bobby Kellam, deceased, and Jack Kellam.

Alexander Kellam donated land for the church and schools at Colfax, land where the present homecomings are held.

KIRKPATRICK

John Kirkpatrick married Mary Margaret Slaughter, and their children were:

Lennie Kirkpatrick, who married Dr. V. B. Cozby.

Andrew Kirkpatrick, who married Clara Rusk, daughter of Tom Rusk, the parents of Mary Louise and Virgil Ethan Kirkpatrick, both of whom are now married.

Janie Kirkpatrick, who married Aubrey Pitts.

Virgil Kirkpatrick.

LUMMUS

Jim Lummus married Fannie Camper in 1890 near Tyler in Smith County, and to them were born four children, Joe, Nora, Bill, and Susie Lummus.

Joe Lummus married Lillie Belle Chambers, and their children were Jessie, Nadene, Merle and Edward.

Nora was married to Floyd King in 1912, and he passed away in 1942. She was married to Jim Attaway in 1946, and he passed away in 1959.

Bill married Minnie Petty, daughter of Taylor Petty of Moore.

Susie Lummus was married to Bert Hollowell, and their children were Cecil Hollowell, who married Tina Darby, daughter of Grady Darby of Sand Flat; Dwain Hollowell who married Nelma Fowler, daughter of Hugh Fowler of

Van; Juanice Hollowell who was married to John Land, son of Foster Land of Grand Saline; Vernell Hollowell who was married to J. T. Taylor, son of Jim Taylor of Alba; Harold Hollowell who married Nancy Watkins, daughter of John Watkins of Garland; Phyllis Hollowell who was married to Bedford Thompson, son of Tull Thompson of Grand Saline; and Jimmy Hollowell, still single and living at home.

McMAHON

Samuel Wilsie McMahon, Sr., from Ireland, was the progenitor of this family. His sons were Samuel Wilsie, Jr., M. L. McMahon, Andrew McMahon, and Dr. Jesse Henderson McMahon. Andrew McMahon married Lizzie Curry and their children were Nell, Lorene and Curry G. McMahon. Dr. Jesse McMahon was a bachelor. M. L. McMahon married Anna Mayne, and they had no children. Samuel, Jr., married Ann Jordan, and their children were S. Cullen McMahon, Maggie McMahon who married Walters, Frankie who married Land Everett, brother of the elder Rev. Frank Everett. S. Cullen McMahon married Oma Berry, and their children were Nova, Dorothy, and S. C., Jr. Samuel Wilsie Sr. was in the Confederate army during the Civil War, and Samuel Jr. was four years old before his father saw him.

McPHAIL

Two McPhail brothers and their sister were among the original settlers of the Colfax-Owlet Green area. The oldest was Thomas McPhail, who settled just south of Colfax, Archibald McPhail, who obtained a grant of land in Owlet Green near to that of James A. Geddie, the husband of his sister, Mary Margaret McPhail.

The McPhail Clan begins early in the history of Scotland. The name of the ancestors of the McPhails was Cattanach, and this Cattanach Clan was one of the original septs of the Clan Chattan, a powerful Highlands Clan that made itself known throughout the history of Scotland. The name means "Son of Paul." The first of the Clan was Paul Gow, and his son was called McPhail. His grandson was Sir Andrew McPhail of Invenness, Scotland, one of the first officials of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, shortly after the Protestant Revolution.

The McPhails wrote their name into the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland, and into church and literary history of Australia, Canada, the United States, and other places over the world to which they, along with other Scotsmen, migrated.

By the time the McPhails decided to come to Texas from North Carolina in 1850, most of their children were practically grown. The complete genealogy of these McPhails is contained in the Geddie & McPhail Genealogy, but here are given names of some of the offspring of the original Colfax McPhails:

Thomas McPhail was born in North Carolina in 1795, and married Margaret McNeill. Their children were:

1. Thomas Robert McPhail, who married Margaret Cade, parents of Margaret Isabella McPhail who was married to Amsey Kirkpatrick; Mary Ella McPhail, who was married to David F. Large; Annie Elizabeth McPhail, who was married to B. J. Odom; Vinette McPhail, who was married to Walter Hall; Thomas and John Cade McPhail, both of whom died as small children.

2. Hector McPhail, who was unmarried, and lived with

3. Isabella McPhail, his sister, who also was unmarried.

4. John A. McPhail.

5. Daniel McNeill McPhail, who married his cousin, Isabella Geddie, daughter of James A. and Mary Margaret Geddie.

6. Dougald McPhail, who married Julia Rosenbaum, the parents of Jim Emmett, John, and Addie McPhail. They moved to Hunt County long before 1900.

7. Mary Margaret McPhail, who was married to Alex Rosenbaum, the parents of Margaret Ann Rosenbaum, who married a Brittain.

Archibald McPhail was born in 1811 in North Carolina, and married Mary Magdalene Rosenbaum, and they were the parents of Emma McPhail who died as a baby, John Archibald McPhail who also died as a baby, D. J. McPhail, a new born baby that did not live, Virginia Caroline McPhail, and James Dobbin McPhail.

Virginia Caroline McPhail was married to Ben W. Gentry. (See Gentry)

James Dobbin McPhail (Uncle Dobbin to everyone in

Colfax), a man who had no enemy, possibly the best liked personality who ever lived in Colfax, who married Sarah Winifred Hendley, and they were the parents of Mary Evie McPhail, who was married to George Reaves; Levi Dobbin McPhail, who married Daisy Terry; Virginia Pearl McPhail who was married to Nathaniel Edward Clark; Homer Flavus McPhail, who married Fannie Terry; Minnie Lavada McPhail who was married to Edgar Allen Wright, and Ben Archibald McPhail, who married (1) Mary Grace Rusk and (2) Mattie Elizabeth Hardegree.

For the offspring of Mary Margaret McPhail who married James A. Geddie, see Geddie Family.

NOWLIN

Dr. Jesse F. Nowlin, Dr. Andrew Nowlin, and Henry B. Nowlin were brothers who lived around Owlet Green and Colfax. It is believed that Henry B. Nowlin was the druggist in Owlet Green, and later he became owner of a drug store in Grand Saline, and then moved to Fort Worth, where he was a druggist for many years.

Dr. Jesse F. Nowlin was the father of Clara Nowlin, Ralph Nowlin, Jim Nowlin, and Gladys Nowlin, who was married to Willoby Strange.

Dr. Andrew Nowlin has a son named Kelly Nowlin.

Henry B. Nowlin's sons were Harold C. Nowlin and Bryant Nowlin.

The brothers had two sisters, Emma who was unmarried, and Nora who married a Mullins.

PITTS

The Pitts family migrated from South Carolina to the Cherry Creek community of Pontotoc County, Mississippi around 1845. Abner Henry Pitts and his wife, Nannie Elizabeth, were born and were married in Pontotoc County, Miss., and their six children were born there. The entire family moved to Colfax in 1901. At that time Mount Gipson, or Mount Gibson community, consisting of one school, Colfax Postoffice which was a small building in the yard of John S. Thorn, and Tunnell's Chapel were all very close together, and even then were considered one community. When Mount Gibson school closed, after the demise of its one school teacher, in a one room building,

and when RFD routes were established about 1903, and when the Colfax post office was discontinued, the whole area became known as the Colfax community.

The children of Abner Henry and Nannie Elizabeth Pitts are:

Walter Loyd Pitts, popularly called "Bill" Pitts, who married Ettie Kirkpatrick.

Alta Lavelle Pitts, who married Richard Caldwell Berryman in Cherry Creek community, Mississippi, shortly before the family moved to Colfax.

Aubrey Frederick Pitts, who married Janie Kirkpatrick.

Ethel Dorothy Pitts, who married George T. Matthews.

Claudius Melvin Pitts, who married, first, Tillie Thorn, and many years later married Iris Eitel, of Grand Saline.

Floyd Brooks Pitts, who married Patty Elizabeth McLeod, a Grand Saline girl.

Of the above six children, only Floyd Pitts is living today. He is an eminent attorney, who served the Magnolia Petroleum Company for many years, and retired to Van, Texas, to become its Mayor.

POLLARD

The oldest of this family to come to Texas was the widow of Benjamin Glover Pollard, Sr., and the first of her children to accompany her to Texas about 1870 were James Newton Pollard, and Benjamin Glover Pollard, Jr. The widow of Benjamin Glover Pollard, Sr., was born Elvira Russell, in Feb. 1824. Her husband was born in South Carolina, around Greenville County, and came to Choctaw County, Miss., in 1840 with his father down the Natchez Trace when it was infested with Indians, and trail robbers. The father of Benjamin Glover Pollard, Sr., was William Parham Pollard, and he was born in Virginia, and migrated as a small boy with his father Ben Pollard, to Greenville District, South Carolina. William Parham Pollard migrated to Choctaw County, Miss., in 1840 with his sons, Benjamin Glover Pollard (Sr.), William Ira Pollard, Lafayette Pollard, and possibly other children. William Parham Pollard lived to be close to 100 years old. The descendants of William Ira Pollard all live in Mississippi. Lafayette Pollard married and reared a family in Choctaw

County, Miss., and then migrated westward. No one ever has heard of him since.

Benjamin Glover Pollard (Sr.) was a wagon master, plying the frontier trade between Mississippi and Arkansas. After the civil war he apparently loaded up his wife, Elvira, and his children, by then married and with children all their own, and headed for Arkansas. Among his children were: James Newton Pollard, born 1849, who married Sallie Elizabeth Hefner, William Jasper Pollard, the son who remained in Mississippi; Sarah Ann Pollard, who first married Anderson, the father of Jo Ann Anderson. Her husband died, and she then married Bill Johnson, the father of Lucretia Johnson. Bill Johnson was killed in the Civil War, and Sarah Ann Pollard Anderson Johnson married James K. Oakes; Margaret Pollard who married Joe Johnson, the progeny of whom live in Arkansas; Mary Elizabeth Pollard, who married Tom Dawson; John M. Pollard who died unmarried; and Benjamin Glover Pollard, Jr., who married Alice Carolina Oakes in Owlet Green, Texas.

The first of the Pollard family to come to Texas were James Newton Pollard and his wife Sallie, and his son Wilma (father of Tom Pollard) who was born in Mississippi; the mother of James Newton Pollard, Elvira (who's husband had died in Arkansas), and his brother, Benjamin Glover Pollard, Jr. They settled near Owlet Green around 1870. This family was entirely uprooted by the Civil War. The editor can remember his great grandmother Pollard (Sallie, wife of James Newton Pollard) telling of the wonderful, pre-civil-war plantation days in Mississippi, when there was plenty of everything, riding horses over the landscape, jumping log fences, on the "chase," and watching little Negro children eat corn pone and potlicker. A few of this family remained in Mississippi to ride out the depression of the reconstruction days and ultimately to prosper.

James Newton and Sallie Pollard were the parents of William Pollard who married Cornelia Barber, the parents of Tom and Allen and May Pollard; Edward Newton Pollard who died as a child; Adie Elector Pollard who married John Wesley Geddie, parents of Polie, Bonner, Carl, Prentice Geddie, and daughters Clyde, Pauline and Clifford; Lorenzo Dow Pollard (named for a famous frontier

minister) who married Mary Elizabeth Adcock; Nannie Roetta Pollard who married Homer Cain; James Thomas Pollard who died as a child; Glover Cleveland Pollard, father of Loneta Pollard; Theodocia Pollard; Preston Porter Pollard, who married Mae Weaver, parents of Gordon Pollard, and Aretta Pollard who married D. T. Hooten; and Emaline Georgia Pollard who died as a child.

The brother of James Newton Pollard, Benjamin Glover Pollard, Jr., married Alice Caroline "Mitty" Oakes. They were the parents of Lunas Atticus Pollard (born in Colfax), who married Grace Lawson; Charles James Pollard who married Viola McAnnally, parents of Raymond, Glenn, and Robert J. Pollard; Jewell Mississippi Pollard, who married John A. "Jock" McPhail; Mary Frances Pollard who married (1) Travis Lawrence, and (2) Richard Ratliffe; John Glover Pollard, a well known Methodist Minister, who married Lucille Marler; Della Pollard, who married Ross Bryant and lives in Denver, Colo.; and Della's twin sister, Stella Pollard, who married Rev. F. D. Dawson.

Along with brothers and mother, came Sarah Ann Pollard who married first Anderson, parents of Jo Ann Anderson, who married William Troublefield, parents of Fannie Troublefield who married, Dr. Nolen Geddie; second, Bill Johnson, parents of Lucretia Johnson, who married Warren Hendley; and third after the death of Bill Johnson, Sarah Ann married James K. Oakes, parents of Annie B. Oakes, who married Allen Wilson Matthews; Theodocia Oakes, Mary Ella Oakes, and Willie Lee Oakes, who married Charles H. Matthews.

The wagon train that brought James Newton and Benjamin Glover (Jr.) Pollard to Texas in 1869 also contained 25 other families, including the sisters of the just mentioned Pollards, Sarah Ann Pollard and her husband, James K. Oakes, Margaret Pollard and her husband Joe Johnson, Tom Dawson and his wife Mary Pollard.

REAVES

George A. Reaves moved to Texas in 1902, stopping first at Grand Saline and then settling near Colfax. There were four boys and three girls in his family, including Tracy, Lois, George and Sam, and daughters Jeffie Lee, Margaret,

and Luna Mae. He ran a gin in the fall and spring, and in the summer, he operated a saw mill.

In 1904, he and Cull Berryman went to Myrtle Springs and purchased enough broom wire to run about one-half mile of telephone line. They used bottle necks for brackets, and the telephone was a square box. They would cut a round hole in the box, and then nail a tin lid over the hole. They would punch a hole in the tin lid, run the wire through it, and tie it to a nail. To attract the attention of the neighbor a person would thump on the lid, and then talk to his neighbor, sometimes one-half mile away, sometimes a mile. Each family had different "thumps" as a signal.

REYNOLDS

G. W. Reynolds and his wife, Louise Catherine, moved to Colfax about 1885. He helped build a church at Colfax, then known as Tunnell's Chapel. He was a Methodist Minister, and at his death was the oldest man in the Methodist Conference. Among their children were:

Ella Reynolds who married a Peel, and lived in Fort Worth.

Leona Reynolds, who married a Stroud and lived in Tyler.

Artimisia Reynolds, who married a Kirkpatrick.
George Reynolds.

Renia Reynolds who married a Stroud.

Finis Reynolds who married a Rowden.

Ernest Reynolds.

Bradford Reynolds.

RUSK

John Rusk, the progenitor of the Texas Rusks, migrated from Ireland in 1791 and settled in Pendleton County, South Carolina, on land belonging to John C. Calhoun. He was a stone mason by trade and built the Old Stone Church still standing near Clemson College, S.C. He married Mary Sterrit. The children of John and Mary Rusk were: Thomas Jefferson Rusk; Easter Sterritt Rusk, who was married to Nolen L. Meroney and ultimately moved to Nacogdoches; Mary Rusk who married a Bruce and moved to Nacogdoches; Nancy Rusk, who remained in Georgia; Jane R. Rusk who married a Thrist and moved to Nacog-

doches; Rachael Rusk, who remained in Georgia; and David Rusk, who came to Texas.

Thomas Jefferson Rusk married Mary F. Cleveland, daughter of General John Cleveland on Jan. 4, 1827, in Clarksville, Georgia. Her friends called her "Polly."

The children of Thomas Jefferson and Mary F. Rusk were:

Benjamin Livingston Rusk, born Feb. 24, 1828 in Georgia; John Cleveland Rusk, born Dec. 9, 1829, in Georgia; Thomas J. Rusk, Jr., born Jan. 12, 1832 and died 1834, in Georgia; Cicero Rusk, born in 1834 in Georgia, and was killed in the Civil War; Alonzo Rusk, born 1838 in Texas, and died as a baby; Helena Rusk, born in Texas and died at age 18; and Tom Rusk, born in Texas.

Mary Cleveland Rusk had a sister, who married a Smith. After the death of her husband, she married a Jim Thorn, possibly father of John S. Thorn, of Colfax.

David Rusk was married in 1843, and he had a son living near Nacogdoches in 1928 by the name of John Rusk. It is possible that this is the David Rusk who is listed in the Abstract of Land Titles of Texas, Original Grantees of Van Zandt County, published by Blaylock and Shaw in Galveston, 1878. David Rusk patented land in Van Zandt the year the county was formed, 1848.

(Genealogical information relative to Thomas J. Rusk was obtained from Vol. XXXIV, July, 1930 to April, 1931, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, published by the Texas State Historical Association in Austin 1931).

Reaching over many years in the past and many miles to the east, we note that Captain John C. Rusk was the second son of General Thomas J. Rusk of early Texas history, born in Clarksville, Ga., in 1829. After the General Rusk migrated to Nacogdoches, Tex., and joined Sam Houston and company in his argument with Santa Anna and the Mexican government, the family of General Rusk joined him in Nacogdoches.

The "Captain" (from later Civil War participation) grew up in Nacogdoches along with his first cousin, the Thorns, sons of John Thorn (Sr.) who had moved to Texas and lent considerable financial assistance to the revolutionary Texas army.

Captain Rusk was educated at private schools and West

Point military academy. He married in 1849 and was admitted to the bar in 1850.

Captain Robert S. Patton, father-in-law of Captain Rusk, was in the shipping business, plying boats between New Orleans and Jefferson, Tex. The Captain joined him in this business from 1859 until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1860. In spite of strained personal finances, he joined the Confederate Army and headed his own company, recruited and outfitted at his own expense in Nacogdoches.

On Oct. 13, 1860, deed of trust was executed in favor of Henry M. Raguet of Nacogdoches in which the Captain pledged 3489 acres of land as collateral for note to cover household and personal expenses. Part of these lands were in Van Zandt County east of Canton. The Rusk estate, like that of many prominent southern families, went "down the drain," as a result of the war and the reconstruction.

Captain Rusk had nine children from two marriages. Four children was born to the first marriage, five to the second. The fourth and last child of the first marriage was Harriet Rebecca Rusk, born in 1857. The mother, Harriet Patton Rusk, an invalid and unable to care for her children, was confined to a hospital where she died in 1860. It is not known what disposition was made with the other children at the time, but Harriet Rebecca (later Aunt Becky Tunnell) was cared for by two of the Rusk slaves who took her into the slave quarters on the Rusk homestead and cared for her while their master, the Captain, was fighting the damyankees. Black Sambo and Black Mammy were the guardians of the infant Becky. Black Sambo was not allowed to sleep in the room with Becky as Black Mammy didn't think it proper. Black Mammy devoted herself to her charge and was heartbroken a few years later when, the war over and the Captain a widower and almost broken in spirit and finances, moved his residence and Becky from Nacogdoches, leaving Black Mammy and Sambo behind. The old Negress actually clung to the child, had to be forcibly restrained and died of a broken heart.

Captain Rusk married the second time in 1862 and moved to Cherokee County, then moved again in 1874 to the Tunnell's Chapel community in Van Zandt County. He spent

the rest of his active life teaching school, farming and rearing his family.

Besides "Aunt Becky," who was seventeen years of age when she moved to Tunnell's Chapel and later met and married C. W. Tunnell (Uncle Commie, son of Elisha Tunnell) there was a daughter, Mary, later "Aunt Mary" Kellis, mother of John and Lewis Kellis; Reatha, later "Aunt Reatha" Keahey, mother of Rusk Keahey; Tom, father of Buddie and Houston Rusk; another son, Uncle Aleck Rusk; Cornelia Ann, who married Aleck Kellam, parents of Jack and Jim Kellam.

It is probable that the Captain finally moved to the Tunnell's Chapel community because of close ties with the Thorn family, Uncle John Thorn being his first cousin, also because of the remaining Rusk lands being in the vicinity.

Captain Rusk's daughter, Cornelia Ann, "Aunt Coonie," had met and married Aleck Kellam several years earlier in Nacogdoches while the Kellam's and Rusk's were residents there. Doubtless, moving in the community with his daughter and son-in-law was a strong consideration.

STEWART

Robert Greer Stewart, known as "Uncle Bob," was one of the original settlers of the Colfax-Owlet Green Communities. He married Caroline Melissa Tunnell, daughter of Elisha Tunnell in Smith County in 1852. Their children were:

1. Levi Franklin Stewart who married Irene Stephenson, the parents of Elbert, Offie, Effie, Levi, a minister, Melissa, Victoria Stewart. This family lived in Red River County, Texas.

2. Nancy Letitia Stewart, who was married to Thomas Chappell Cox, the parents of Nellie Cox, who was married to Walter Prather; Mary Melissa Cox, who was married to Walter Brooks; Robert Franklin Cox; Marvin Chappell Cox; Stephen Blake Cox; Thomas Giles Cox; Ernest Lee Cox; Chloe Camilla Cox; and Mattie Lois Cox. This family lived in Taylor County.

3. Stephen Ellen Stewart who married Ella Sanders (Aunt Ella to many a Colfax resident and visitor), the parents of:

- a. Robert Franklin Stewart, Methodist Minister of

Dodge, Texas, who married Cora Reynolds, the parents of Juanita and Cuitah Stewart.

b. Ammie Vida Stewart, who married Hamp Keahey, the parents of Coy Ivan, Stephen Orville, Woodrow Cornelius, Royce, and Eulis Hamp Keahey.

c. Willie Cleophas Stewart.

d. Nancy Melissa Stewart who married Karl Dove, the parents of Ernestine Dove, Joe Randall Dove, and Dee Dove.

4. Melissa Stewart who was married to Robert Beggs, and they had no children.

5. Samuel Martin Stewart, who married (1) Lizzie Geddie, parents of Uel, Urie, and Lennie Stewart and (2) married Katie Newbill, parents of Ruby, Winnie, Buren Stewart. Buren Stewart is a District Superintendent of a Methodist Conference in New Mexico.

TERRY

William (Uncle Billy) Terry was the progenitor of all the Colfax Terrys. He came to Texas in the 1870's from Alabama with his sons Albert, Edd, and Sam. Uncle Billy Terry was born in North Carolina, and along with the Geddies, McMillans, McPhails, Elliotts, and many another Scots family migrated to Alabama when that territory was substantially cleared of Indian inhabitation to make it relatively safe for white men to establish farms.

Edd Terry became a Presbyterian minister.

Sam Terry migrated to Hamilton County, and became a Sheriff of that county.

Albert Terry married Fannie Webb, and their children were:

Hick Terry.

Will Terry, who became a Doctor of Medicine, one of the best known ever to practice in Van Zandt County.

Sam Terry.

Albert Terry.

Osce Terry.

Fannie Terry.

Daisy Terry.

Pearl Terry.

Rosebud Terry.

The United States Census, Van Zandt County, for 1870, shows the family of Albert and Fannie Terry, with their son Will, then age four months, living in the proximity of Colfax. William Terry, father of Albert, is listed as living with them. Albert and Fannie Terry were both born in Alabama, possibly Hale, Perry of Green Counties, from which so many Van Zandt folk came.

The full name of Hick Terry was Sidney T. Terry. He married Anna Amelia Rusk, the great granddaughter of General Thomas J. Rusk. From that union came seven children, five boys and two girls: William Ethan, John Rusk, popularly known as "Cap," Argin, Dr. Samuel Leach Terry, Sidney Gaston "Sid" Terry, Dorotha Grace Terry, Jack Bryan Terry.

William Ethan married Alma Hines of Seagoville, and they had one son, William Ethan, Jr. William Ethan, Sr., died in 1944.

John Rusk "Cap" Terry married Olin Hendley, daughter of Warren J. Hendley of Colfax. They had two sons, Kenneth and Floyd Hendley. Kenneth married Lila Beth Stevenson of Dallas, and they have two children, Shirley Jean, and John Kenneth, Jr. Floyd Hendley Terry married Margaret Faye Hanks of Dallas, and they are the parents of Johnnie and Sidney Warren Terry, and a daughter, Gayland Lee Terry.

Argin Terry was married to John Rash of Colfax. Their four children were John T. Rash, Jr., Harold Ray Rash, Elizabeth Ann Rash, and Marie Rash.

Dr. Samuel Leach Terry, pastor of the Madison Square Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, Texas, married Margaret Colling of Sherman. They are the parents of Samuel Leach Terry, Jr., Bill Terry, Mary Terry, and Anna Ruth Terry.

Sidney Gaston Terry married Margaret Hughston of Dallas.

Dorotha Grace Terry was married to Garland Crooks, and they are the parents of Kay, Ann, Johnnie and Gary Crooks.

Jack Bryan Terry married Mary Lee Edwards of Dallas, the parents of Diane and Donna Terry.

Dr. Will Terry, who was the oldest of the sons of Albert Terry, was a familiar figure in the homes of nearly every-

one in Colfax, Owlet Green, Grand Saline, Van and other Van Zandt County communities. In the early days he traveled by horse and buggy, and was one of the first to convert his transportation to the automobile. He was one of the first to own a Model T Ford in the community. (Editor's Note: He was the family doctor of H. N. Geddie, and the editor remembers only too well the black speckled medicine with the vile and bitter taste that was one of the doctor's favorite remedies. The doctor pulled this editor through one or two serious illnesses). Dr. Will Terry married Annie Thorn, daughter of John S. Thorn, and their children were: Floyd, who died of influenza while stationed at a Naval Depot in training during World War I; Chloe Terry, who married Dr. Marshall Ray, of Tyler, a dentist; Earl Terry who died about 1930; and Howell "Hal" Terry who lives in Tyler.

Another son of Albert and Fannie Terry was Sam Terry, who married Alma Clowers, daughter of Rack, or Shadrach Clowers. Their children were Sam Terry, Jr., Edna Terry who married Robert Cook, and Adie Lou Terry.

Albert Terry, the son of Albert and Fannie Terry, died at the age of 20 years.

Osce Terry, the son of Albert, married Carrie Gentry, daughter of Ben Gentry, and their children are Willie Floy Terry, who was married to Victor Mabry; Virginia Terry who was married to Milton C. Smith; and Ocelie Terry who was married to V. E. Thompson.

Fannie Terry was married to Homer McPhail, and they were the parents of Claydie Mae McPhail, who was married to Charles E. Phelps, Homer Hugh McPhail, who married Martha Sue Gassaway, Larry McPhail who married Shirley Wood, and Joe McPhail who married Naomi Melton.

Daisy Terry was married to Levi McPhail, brother to Homer, both sons of Uncle Dobbin McPhail, and their children are: Thomas Graydon McPhail, who married Ruth Lena Fortune, Albert Dobbin McPhail, who married Christine Fowler, William Brady McPhail who married Sumi Camp, and Hazel Terry McPhail who was married to Samuel Calvin Wilson.

Pearl Terry was married to Charles Walters.

Rosebud Terry was married to John Anderson Graham.

THORN

John Stephen Thorn married Miriam Easter Tunnell, daughter of Elisha Tunnell, and they were the parents of:

Annie Thorn who was married to Dr. Will Terry.

Charles Thorn, who married Epsie Gentry, daughter of Ben and Ginny Gentry.

Reuben Thorn.

Pearl Thorn, who was married to Ocie Kidd.

Carlie Thorn who was married to J. H. Fortune.

John Stephen Thorn married a second time and was the father of two daughters, Lula, and Tillie Thorn, the latter of whom was married to Claude Pitts.

John Stephen Thorn was born in Nacogdoches in 1849. His father was named Jim Thorn. His mother had been widowed by her first husband, named Smith, and she had been married to Jim Thorn in Georgia. His mother was a sister to Mary Cleveland Rusk, wife of General Thomas J. Rusk.

By Mabel Wood Johns

I am a niece of Mrs. Lula Thorn, second wife of John S. Thorn. When I was four months old, my mother, Mattie Starkey Wood of Tyler, passed away and John S. and Lula Thorn took me and reared me as their own child, until I was fifteen years of age. No one ever had a better home than I did. I loved them all. The original "Colfax" was in Daddy Thorn's home, or rather, in a building in his yard. The place now called Colfax was then Tunnell's Chapel. Daddy Thorn used the building after Colfax was moved from our yard for men who worked on the farm. When the building was torn down, the mail slots were moved to the barn for pigeons to nest in. I believe some of the slots still hang in one of the old stables.

Coy Conner, wife of Rev. Bartow Massey, and the daughter of Lyda and Al Conner, and I started homecoming day in Colfax in 1928. Twenty girls were born in 1905 in Colfax, and since they had become scattered, I suggested to Coy that we get together, the last Sunday in August. She agreed. Her mother, Lyda, a twin sister to Leta White, asked if the mothers could join us also. Coy and I agreed. We started calling and writing people and they did the same. By the last Sunday in August everyone had an in-

vation. I believe we had the best time that anyone ever had in dear old Colfax. There were hundreds of people there. They came from miles and miles away. One never saw so much good food, such good singing, preaching and praying and welcoming. It was wonderful. Homecoming has continued since that day.

Daddy John Thorn was born in Nacogdoches, and he married Mariam Tunnell. Five children were born to them, Annie who married Dr. Will Terry, Charles who married Epsie Gentry, Reuben who married Etta Castleberry, Pearl who married Odie Kidd of Tyler, and Carlie who married J. H. "Bud" Fortune. Mariam Thorn passed away when Annie was seventeen and Carlie was five years old. Mrs. Thorn was buried in Tunnell's Chapel cemetery, alongside her mother and father, Elisha and Nancy Tunnell, who were the first to be buried there.

Daddy Thorn later married Lula Wood, and four children were born to them, Tuttle, who died as an infant, Matilda "Tillie" who married Claude Pitts, Leo who died as an infant, and Rachel, who married a Mr. Lott in Dallas. Every one has passed away except Etta Castleberry Thorn in Clovis, New Mexico, and Rachel and her husband who live in Dallas. Daddy Thorn owned one of the most beautiful, well kept farms in the community. One hundred and fifty acres of this farm were in fruit trees. I shall never see a more beautiful sight than this orchard in the spring. It was perfect. He also owned the first cotton gin in the community. People came for several miles to have their cotton baled. I shall never forget the fun I had feeding cotton to the gin, and playing in the cottonseed, leaving my paper dolls in the seed, which then choked cows and got me, almost, a spanking.

Daddy Thorn was a mason. He was not much of a church goer, but he joined the Methodist Church when he was in his sixties, and he had always helped the church financially and generously, all those years. Daddy was also always helping needy families. He would go to the smokehouse or cellar and not only fill a basket, but a wagon load of hams, bacon, sausage, canned goods for needy people, and most of the time no one ever knew anything about it. It was something he did without fanfare. Many times, he would bring people into our home to live until they

got on their feet again. Daddy was a handsome, bald-headed man who would sleep in his chair with his pipe hanging in his mouth, with his newspaper drooped over his knees. We could tease him out of any spanking he ever promised us.

Mama Lula Thorn was a tall, stately person, who was a capable community leader. She was a leader in the Methodist Church, Eastern Star, and Woodsman Circle. I guess she made costumes for everything. I shall never forget the beautiful banners she hand-made, braded, and hand painted for the Woodsman's Circle. I felt so proud when they drilled and carried those banners. Very few babies were born in our part of the community without Mama Thorn being called upon to help Dr. Will Terry and Dr. McMahon. She sat up many nights until midnight making crocheted caps and shawls for neighbors and her family after she had already been up since four in the morning.

I remember only too well the registered cattle and the prize pigs Daddy Thorn raised, and the prizes they won at the Dallas Fair. I remember Mama's bronze turkeys by the hundred, and the geese and the chickens that won prizes. Daddy Thorn grafted the only peach called the Thorn Cling, a tree that provided ripe peaches from July through September. There would be peaches larger than cups, ripe, and then there would be tiny peaches, green, on the same limb. They also won prizes at the Dallas fair.

The place was covered with bee hives that provided honey, and that also provided a few stings I can remember.

We always had music in our home, organ and piano. Someone would come in to sing, play a violin, guitar, or banjo, with Tillie at the piano. I never shall forget when I broke a needle in my toe while I was jig dancing. The quilting bee in our house was a great occasion, with neighbors dropping in to visit and to quilt. Every drummer or salesman who ever came to Colfax stayed at our home.

Colfax was such a wonderful place.

TUNNELL

The progenitor of the Colfax and Smith County Tunnells was one Guillaum Tonnellier, born in France, who migrated

to England and changed his name to Tunnell, or its English equivalent. His son, William Tunnell, born in France, reared in England, married Lady Ann Howard, and migrated to Virginia in 1736. Among their children was Stephen Tunnell, born in 1753 in Spotsylvania County, Va., who became a Methodist minister. He had a brother, also a minister, Rev. John Tunnell. Stephen Tunnell married Kezia Money in 1776 in Georgetown, Maryland. They migrated to Washington and Green Counties, Tennessee, and among their children were James, William, Nancy, and Perry.

Perry Tunnell was born 1787. He, too, was a Methodist minister, and after moving to Alabama, he married Catherine Self, granddaughter of John Gunter, of Gunter's Landing in North Alabama. Among their children were, Jesse, Mahulda, James, Enoch, Josiah, Allan, Stephen, Nancy, John Wesley, Mary, Elizabeth, and Elisha.

Jesse Tunnell died in Alabama unmarried. Mahulda Tunnell married Wilson Berry, the parents of Hugh Berry, who married Caroline Kirkpatrick; Enoch Berry, who died in the Civil War; Catherine Berry who married a Palmer; Eliza Jane Berry who married James Hugh, Elisha Berry; Andrew Vestal Berry who married Martha Cooper, the parents of Thomas Berry who married Sallie Blue, and Jackson Berry, who married Lois Lloyd, the parents of Clarence Berry, Grace Berry, Ruby Berry. Andrew Vestal and Martha Berry were also the parents of Oma Berry who married S. C. McMahon, Ella Berry who married Bud Ballard, Addie and Mary Berry.

James Tunnell migrated to Garden Valley. Enoch Tunnell lived on a Grand Saline route, possibly near Garden Valley. Josiah Tunnell lived in Garden Valley. Stephen Tunnell was a Methodist minister in Bridgeport, Texas. Nancy Tunnell married Samuel Prather in Dallas. John Wesley Tunnell lived in Commanche, Texas. Mary Tunnell married a Hardy White and lived in Wichita Falls. Elizabeth Tunnell married Joseph Swain, among whose children was Oscar Swain.

Elisha Tunnell is the progenitor of most all of the Colfax Tunnells. He was born April 13, 1814, in Alabama. He died March 15, 1884. He married Nancy Ellis on Dec. 25, 1833, and they were parents of:

Ruben, a Lt. Col., CSA, who was killed in the Civil War, in the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

Martin Luther Tunnell who died in Louisiana on his way home after receiving an honorable discharge from the Confederate Army.

Rosa Tunnell, who married Thomas M. Presley, of Fort Worth, and died a year after being married. He moved to Fort Worth.

Caroline Melissa Tunnell, who married Robert Green Stewart, parents of Levi and Nancy Stewart, and other children (see Stewart Family).

Stephen Bailey Tunnell, born 1849. married Mary Louise Turner, the parents of Oscar A., Mollie, Harry Tunnell. They lived around Garden Valley.

Commodore Washington Tunnell was born Dec. 28, 1952, and married Harriett Rebecca Rusk, daughter of Capt. John C. Rusk. They were the parents of Edward, Leonard, Martin Luther, Homer Elisha, Commodore Forest, Edward Cimero, Nancy, Marian Argen, Henry Cullen, Clarence Rusk, Birdie Eulicia, Harriet Anne and Mary Rebecca Tunnell.

David Fisher Tunnell who married Nancy Ann Jordan, the parents of Fisher Ethan, Ommoe May Tunnell and others.

Mariam Easter Tunnell who married John S. Thorn, whose progeny are listed elsewhere under the name Thorn.

Amplias Seaton Tunnell was born in 1862, and married, first, Sallie Rosenbaum, secondly, May Petty, and thirdly, Mrs. Ola Johnson.

Elisha Tunnell was also the father of John Riley Tunnell who married Addie Lawrence, whose children live in New Mexico and California.

Of the Tunnell Clan, the children and grandchildren of Commodore Washington Tunnell who married Harriett Rebecca Rusk continue to be active in Colfax affairs, and the current chairman of the Colfax Homecoming Committee, Forest Truman Tunnell, is a grandson of Commodore Washington and Harriett Rebecca Tunnell, whose children were:

1. Edward Cicero Tunnell, who married Maggie Green, the parents of Maggie, Arlene, and Rebecca Tunnell.
2. Leonard Tunnell who married Lillie May Germany, the

parents of Lois May, Jennie Rebecca, Wilson, Maxwell Leonard, Marian, Dorothy, Perry Russell and Lillie Annie Tunnell.

3. Martin Luther Tunnell who married Maud May White, the parents of Cleo White Tunnell, who married Evelyn Dawson; Commodore Nobel Tunnell, who married Clyde Geddie; Andrew Bridges Tunnell who married Janie Bell McPhail; and Luther Bryce Tunnell, who died as a baby.

4. Homer Elisha Tunnell, who married Bertha Olive Cade, the parents of Dee Roy, Helena Florine, Commodore Seldon, Harry Cade, Ruth, Richard, Clara, Joe and Marnell Tunnell.

5. Nancy Helena Tunnell, who was married to Oscar William Pitts, parents of Oscar and William Pitts.

6. Marian Argen Tunnell who died as a baby.

7. Henry Cullen Tunnell, who married Dora Bailey, parents of Dora, Cullen Bailey, Chlocelia, and Birdie Tunnell.

8. Clarence Rusk Tunnell, who married Nannie Olive Woods, the parents of Forest Truman Tunnell (Colfax Homecoming Committee Chairman), Corinne Rebecca Tunnell, Margie Laverne Tunnell, Mary Lou Tunnell and Farris Tunnell and Frances Tunnell, deceased.

9. Commodore Forest Tunnell, who married Ruth Skiles, the parents of Nancy Christine, Brady Virgil, and Helen Bernice Tunnell, and Tempie Tunnell White.

10. Birdie Eulasia Tunnell, who married Robert Farris Wilson, parents of Bobbye Rebecca Wilson.

11. Harriet Ann Tunnell, who died as a baby.

12. Mary Rebecca Tunnell.

The father of Elisha Tunnell died when Elisha was 12 years old. In spite of hardship and limited education, Elisha Tunnell prospered and developed strong interests in religion and education, and was a purposeful and sometimes severe man, even with himself. In one instance, he took direct action against an offending finger which a snake had bitten by amputating the finger with a hatchet. Elisha served as Worshipful Master in the Masonic Lodge at Tyler, engaged in extensive land trading, sold land to Robert Stewart in the Corinth Community in 1858, and later in 1867 moved his family to the community which became known as Tunnell's Chapel. His place of resi-

dence is now known as the Rusk place, one mile west of Colfax. His wife, the former Nancy Ellis, was a woman of great unselfishness, magnanimous Christian charity, and beloved by all.

WALTERS

Richard T. Walters came to Texas in 1888 where he married Elizabeth Aycock. Their children were Charlie Walters. Jessie Walters who married Ella Reynolds, and Frank Walters who married Lottie Rusk.

Richard T. Walters was married first to a McKinzey in Georgia, and they were the parents of several children, among whom was Neelie, a daughter, all of whom lived in Georgia.

In the 1750s John and Jude Walters bought land in Lenoir County, North Carolina. Probable grandsons of John are John III, Daniel, Richard and Jessee.

Jessee was born September 3, 1770 in Lenoir County. He married Sarah Waterer. Sarah was the daughter of Rejemelich Waterer and granddaughter of John Waterer who purchased land in Lenoir in 1752. Sarah and Jessee lived for a time in Wayne County, North Carolina, where Williams, Jeremiah and two of their daughters were born. About 1812 they moved to Warren County, Georgia. Sarah and Jessee moved again to Macon County where they lived their remaining days. They are buried in the Walters Cemetery.

In 1827 land was purchased from the Indians and given as grants to some of the citizens of Georgia, Williams being one of these. His land was located in Twiggs County, Georgia. This land is now owned by several of his descendants and a part of the original home is being used by Joseph Walters Faulk.

Williams married Rebecca Tillman of the South Carolina and Virginia Tillmans. Richard Tillman, his eldest son married first Melissia McKenzie and at her death married Pheraby Elizabeth Aycock. They made their home on the plantation, Walters Crossing, in Lee County, Georgia. Joe, Mary Cornelia, Jeremiah Frances (Frank), Jessee and Charlie were born there. Around 1880 the family home burned to the ground. The children were saved by the negroes who rolled them in featherbeds and threw them from upstairs windows. In 1888 Richard Tillman Walters

and family moved to Tyler where them stayed only until they could locate land to buy. Within a few months they were settled in Colfax.

Mary Cornelia, better known as Nelie, may well be remembered by some of the old timers — perhaps some of the Gentry family will remember her coming to call — with a pet sow following her as far as their gate. Joe and Nelie lived on the Walters homestead until the death of Joe.

Charle Married Pearl Terry whom he met in Colfax. Ancestors of each lived in the same district of North Carolina nearly two hundred years prior to their knowing each other. Charle and Pearl were always active in church and community activities.

Jessee married Ella Reynolds and lived near Colfax on their farm.

Jeremiah Francis married Lottie Rusk and operated a grocery store in Colfax.

Richard Tillman Walters was a planter of Georgia as was his father. He continued his farming activities after moving to Colfax until his death there.

Charle, a farmer like the ancestors before him, was also very interested in local activities. He was president of the school board, participated in church services and was an active member of the Masons. Pearl played the church organ and later the piano when the church began to modernize. Pearl was also a member of the Eastern Star. They were also participants of the annual trek by the Colfax families to Big Eddy for their several days of fishing. In about 1921 they moved to Grand Saline and later to Waxahachie where Charle operated a grocery store and farm.

WHITE

By Mastin G. White

My earliest ancestors to become residents of Colfax community were my paternal grandparents, Andrew M. and Mary Jane (Molly) White. She was born a Baker. They moved to Colfax in 1876. Before their marriage, my grandfather White lived with his parents in the Edom community, on Horsley Creek. My grandmother's maiden name was Mary Jane (Molly) Baker, and before her marriage she lived with her widowed mother in the Galena Community,

near the boundary of Van Zandt and Smith Counties. After marriage, my paternal grandparents settled first on a farm northeast of Ben Wheeler, in an area sometimes referred to as the Watts Community. In 1876, they moved to Colfax, because that community was known for its good churches and school. My grandparents settled on a sandy land farm famous for a wonderful spring, which, in the opinion of the family, produced the best water in Van Zandt County. The old White place is now known as the Love place, and has on it a rather large lake known as Love's Lake. My grandparents lived in Colfax for the remainder of their lives, and are buried in Colfax cemetery. They had the following children:

William Norton "Will" White.

Aliet Berryman "Al" White.

Pink Ross White.

Ida White, who married Levy Hendley.

Lela White, who married J. P. "Ped" Loper.

John Earl White.

Maud White, who married Luther Tunnell.

The White boys of my father's generation were great hunters, and I used to enjoy hearing my father tell of the abundance of wild game in the Colfax area when he and his brothers were boys. Coons, possum, squirrels, and quail existed in great abundance, and deer were plentiful, too. In the fall and spring, great flocks of ducks and geese would light on lakes and streams to provide wonderful hunting. Tremendous flocks of passenger pigeons would virtually darken the sky as they passed over. Hunters of the time were not concerned with conservation, and the unwary passenger pigeon was slaughtered by the thousands when they huddled together in treetop roosts at night, so that this bird ultimately became extinct.

Note on Whites by Truman Tunnell:

Uncle Andrew and Aunt Molly White were early day residents of the Cold Springs and Tunnell's Chapel communities, whose influence is felt through a wide area until the present day. Uncle Andy passed away in 1901, and Aunt Molly in 1923. The Whites came to Tunnell's Chapel about 1876, and among their children were Will and Al White, resident farmers and pillars of the community. Pink

and Earl White, both Methodist ministers, well known in a wide area throughout their adult life.

The Rev. Pink White is quoted as saying: "When I was in school, I planned to be a lawyer, but an overpowering urge to preach came over me. I simply had to be a minister. I felt I had to preach or go to hell."

The Rev. White did not intend to predict the destiny of those who did apply themselves to the legal profession, but preach he did, for forty-three years, and with rare dedication. The Rev. Mr. White recalled in an interview in 1937 that he had been on time for 4470 sermons, but had been late twice.

"The first time I was late was in the early days of my ministry," Rev. Pink White is quoted as saying. "I was forty miles from the place where I was to preach, and it rained hard all day Saturday. I got up and started for the church at 4 a.m. Sunday, riding an unbroken mustang pony. I hurried over that 40 miles of muddy country road as much as I could, but I reached the church 10 minutes late." Rev. Pink White preached that day.

Recalling his second tardiness, he said: "It was very foggy that morning, so foggy that I could not see the road in front of the car, and I was forced to stop frequently to clean off the windshield in an effort to improve my vision. I drove as rapidly as I dared under the circumstances, but that was not very fast. When I finally did reach the church, I was thirty minutes late, and the congregation had gone home." The Rev. Mr. White's perseverance far exceeded that of his congregation.

The progeny of Uncle Andy and Aunt Molly White later on in life added luster to other professions, including that of law. Like the descendants of other early day Tunnell's Chapel families, Colfax still claims them all as a part of her own.

Rev. Earl White married Minnie Lou Gentry, and their children were:

John Earl White, who married Dorothy Needham.

Brady White who married Marguerite Kile.

Andrew Ben White, who married Margie Ann Hall.

Mastin G. White who married Marjorie Delight Perry.

Al White married Leta Allen, and their children are English Crespie White, who married Estell Lee; Clovis

White who was married to Earl Clower; Gladys White who was married to Jimmy Anderson; Jack White who married Tay Brown; Mary Lee White who was married to Bill Martin; Johnnie Ruth White who was married to Herschel Cates; and Lyda White who died as a baby.

Will White married Ann Keahey, and their children are Tillie, Sabra, Nuell, Birdie, Janie, Umie, Cammie, Annice, and Ira White.

Rev. Pink White married Rena Jones, and their children are Lois, Rankin, and Jester White. After the death of Aunt Rena White, Rev. Pink White was married a second time, but there were no children from this marriage. Lois White was married to Joe Forman, Ballinger, Texas.

Ida White was married to Levy Hendley, and their children are Ross, Minnie, Bonnie, Otto, Rena, Thurman, Margaret, Cummie Hendley, and Pearl who married Douglas Geddie. Rena Hendley was married to Leland Edmondson, Van, Texas.

Lela White was married to J. P. Loper, and their children are Amelia, Forrest, Pink, Maud, Merl, Penelope (Nep), Lillian and J. P.

WILSON

Three brothers and a sister named Wilson, Sam, Robert, Ben, and Sarah, settled about 5½ miles southeast of the Colfax community in 1900. Sarah had married her first cousin, Nat, and thus retained her maiden name of Wilson.

Benjamin Felix (Uncle Ben), a surviving son of Sam Wilson, still lives in the community and vividly recalls his first impressions of Van Zandt County. "Goodridge (his brother) and I got off the train in Grand Saline at noon one day in November, 1900, bought a lunch for 15 cents, and started walking." They walked from Grand Saline to Ben Wheeler by way of Colfax, finally back-tracking to the new farm some three miles north of Ben Wheeler. "By the time we had walked those 25 miles without food, I had almost decided Texas was a good place to stay away from," Uncle Ben says with a reminiscent twinkle in his eyes.

The Wilson numbers swelled the rolls of the Colfax Presbyterian Church, and their good influence has been felt

in the community until the present day. Sam, one of the original settlers, was a ruling elder and secretary of the Presbyterian church for a number of years, and was a dominant factor in church government until his death in 1935. Later Wilsons, including "Uncle Ben" Wilson and Sam Wilson, son of Sarah and Nat Wilson, are still church elders.

Sam Wilson and his wife, Martha Batterton Wilson, reared seven children:

John H., who married Helen Fern Nelson and reared three children.

Mrs. Jean Tunnell of Van;

Anne Meredith Wilson (deceased);

Mrs. Frances Jackson of Odessa.

Fannie, who died in early adulthood;

Goodridge, who married Mary Wood and had one child;

Benjamin Felix, who married Miss Lucy Schwab. He still lives on the Sam Wilson homestead and is the only survivor of this family in the community;

Miss Sadie Wilson, who lives in San Antonio;

Sam, who moved to California about 1920;

Mrs. Helen Rainy of San Antonio.

Robert Wilson married Georgia Combs. Their children are:

Miss Grace Wilson of Ben Wheler;

Mrs. Nell Smith of Fort Worth;

Farris, who married Birdie Tunnell and reared one daughter, Bobbye (Mrs. Clem Smith of San Antonio). He died as a result of injuries received in the First World War;

Sam V.;

Bertha, who married Cathy Fite and moved to Sand Flat. Among their children is Mrs. Anna Grace Camper of Ben Wheeler.

Among the children of Sarah and Nat Wilson are:

Woodville Bates, who married Viola Gee;

Thomas Frazier;

Ellen Trent, who married Paul Ford;

Sam, who married Birdie Tunnell Wilson, widow of Farris Wilson, his cousin. Their children are Willis Wilson, Van, and Don Wilson of San Antonio.

Nat;

Sally, who married Percy Blackwell of Ben Wheeler. Their children are Charlie Blackwell of Van; Fern, who married O. E. Amberg of Tyler; and Pat, who married C. H. Schlueter of Tyler;

Jeanette, who married Percy Blackwell several years after the death of her sister, Sally.

The only descendants of Ben Francis Wilson living in the community are Hope and Helen Wilson, daughters of Gus Wilson.

WRIGHT

Frank Wright was a farmer near Colfax. He married Alice Slaughter, and they moved to Grand Saline, where they built the Commercial Hotel, a commodious structure on a site just south of the Texas and Pacific Railroad Tracks on the main street of Grand Saline. It was the scene of real living, with home cooked meals, served on large, long tables, with plenty of second helpings for everyone who stayed there. The hotel was two stories in height, and had a large lounging room with leather upholstered furniture, a coal stove, domino and checker boards. Frank and Alice Wright were the parents of:

Edd Wright, who married Levada McPhail;

Horace Wright;

Exer Wright, who married a Gaines;

Rosie Wright;

Ben Wright, who married Alva Hendley, daughter of Warren Hendley.

Frank Wright was elected City Marshall of Grand Saline, and served in this capacity for many years.

OWLET GREEN — Gone But Not Forgotten

By Jack Geddie

Owlet Green was one of the most important communities in East Texas in the days when the economy of Texas was predicated, predominantly, upon agriculture and cattle. The community of Owlet Green, deep in the heart of Van Zandt County, served a large area of farm and stock land in a rough circle extending from the town to Edom on the South, Garden Valley in Smith County on the East, Grand Saline on the North, and Canton on the West. Owlet Green occupied a town site at approximately 95 degrees and 40 minutes longitude, and 32 degrees and 30 minutes latitude.

It was a companion, and older community to Colfax, located approximately at 95 degrees 45 minutes longitude and 32 degrees and 31 minutes latitude. The people who patronized the business establishments and the churches of Owlet Green, are substantially, the same people who later frequented Colfax.

Owlet Green was a bustling, bee-hive of activity. It had general merchandise stores, drug stores, cotton gins, Justice of the Peace, notary public, churches of Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist denominations and a school. It was to Owlet Green that farmers and stockmen went to register deeds of trust, to take oaths, to vote, to buy provisions, and to sit in front of the stable and swap yarns about their forebears, most of whom came from the Southern States. It was a lively little town.

Most of the people who were patrons of Owlet Green later became the supporters of Colfax, a few miles to the west. From the time of its beginning, in 1852, Owlet Green was a dominant force in the lives of the people who inhabited this agricultural area in the very heart of the Free State of Van Zandt County. Among first settlers in Owlet Green, or in the area served by Owlet Green, were Rufus Huddle, who was born in Virginia, C. W. Barge, born North Carolina, J. J. Stanger, born in Virginia, Archibald McPhail, born in North Carolina, his wife Mary Magdalene (Nee Rosenbaum), and his children, Virginia and James Dobbin. James McMillan, wagon maker, born in North Carolina, and his wife Harriet, and children Daniel and M. M. McMillan, Dougald McPhail, born in North Carolina, his wife Julia A. (nee Rosenbaum), Daniel McNeill McPhail, born in North Carolina, his wife Isabella (nee Geddie), also born in North Carolina, I. M. Bohannan, from Alabama, Thomas McPhail, from North Carolina, W. B. Huddle, from Virginia, John Rosenbaum, from Virginia, David Martin, from Louisiana, A. C. Heard, from Georgia, Elias Neal from Illinois, A. G. Hackney, from Tennessee, James Allen Geddie, born in North Carolina, I. N. White from Tennessee, John Hamon, born in North Carolina, W. I. Enos, born in North Carolina, W. N. Dawson, born in Tennessee, L. N. Murphy, born in North Carolina, James Alexander Geddie, and his wife, Mary Margaret (nee McPhail) both born in North Carolina, and their twin sons

John and Dougald, and sons Thomas A., and William Robert, Elijah Rose, born in North Carolina, Daniel Hallman, born in South Carolina, George L. Hambrick, born in Georgia, F. M. Staton, born in Alabama, A. C. Hardin, born in South Carolina, Isaac Malone, born in Georgia, James A. Clark, born in Alabama, W. N. Fowler, born in Georgia, Hugh Berry, born in Alabama, J. J. Stanger, born in Virginia, William Lolley, born in Alabama, John Marrs, born in Kentucky, J. M. Patterson, born in South Carolina, and others. These are names listed in the United States Census for the year of 1860, Van Zandt County, Texas, and most of these listed lived in the approximate area of Owlet Green on what was then Edom Beat.

An examination of the earlier census rolls of North Carolina, Alabama and other southern states will reveal the same Scottish, Irish, and English names as those who first settled in Owlet Green. For instance, the 1840 census of Alabama, Green County, shows persons by the name of William Tunnell, George Wade, the Wynnes, Chiles, Rhodes, McFaddens, Hannas, Elliotts, Dobbins, Grahams, Beggs, Pace, Bryant, Tidmore, Weaver and other names similar to those even today in Van Zandt County. An earlier census of North Carolina, for instance, the 1820 U. S. census of Cumberland County, N.C., shows the names of Geddie, McPhail, Maxwell, Phares, Baker, McDougald, Cade, McAlister, McMillan, MacNeill, MacKeithan, Cameron, Elliott, Hogg, Buie, Guy, Terry, Glover and others all living in adjacent neighborhoods. When land opened, they headed west. One of the places they stopped was Owlet Green.

The first comers settled open, untilled, rich, fertile land and many of them were extended headright grants by the State of Texas for settling it. A man could obtain 300 acres of good, rich land for \$30 and have three years in which to pay for it. He usually paid off the mortgage after harvesting one crop.

Owlet Green was also the first religious community in the area, pre-dating Colfax which later became the site of the famous and mass-attended camp meetings, and ultimately the religious center for that part of the county. It was not until after 1870 that Colfax rose in the ascendancy as the religious hub of this agricultural community. Prior to that, dating from 1852, Owlet Green was the most

important town in this section of Van Zandt County, economically, governmentally, religiously, and otherwise. Daniel McNeill McPhail, in a letter to his aunt, Mrs. William McPhail Geddie, Fayetteville, North Carolina, written on June 4, 1854, tells that it was "one mile to the home of Thomas McPhail," his father, one-half mile from his farm to that of James McMillan, about two miles to the farm of his father-in-law, James Alexander Geddie, and that of his uncle, Archibald McPhail, and about three miles to the new church, which is calculated to have been located somewhere near Owlet Green. Daniel McPhail wrote: "We have organized a Presbyterian Church within three miles, and we have the services of Parson King once every month, and sometimes two Sabbaths in one month." Mary Margaret, wife of James A. Geddie, wrote on May 29, 1857: "Mr. Cade and Daniel McMillan and families arrived in Van Zandt County on May 14 (1857), and have rented a place at Edom, about 12 miles from here. We have excellent society here, preaching at our church twice a month, and at the Valley (Garden Valley) twice also." In those days, Garden Valley in Smith County served as the receiving post office for mail to be delivered in Owlet Green. Other churches were subsequently established, after the Civil War, when thousands of people left the Southern United States and migrated westward. One of these was Marvin's Chapel Methodist Church, the cemetery of which contains many of those who settled in or near Owlet Green. Owlet Green had a Baptist Church, too, land for which was donated by F. P. Lybrand.

Information relating to Owlet Green heretofore has been hearsay, handed down by old timers. It was not until 1962 when Truman Tunnell, of Van, Texas, uncovered an old ledger in a trunk at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Sam Wilson, nee Birdie Tunnell, that it became possible to establish factually and accurately the scope of activity in the community of Owlet Green. The ledger was kept by the various Justices of the Peace and Notaries Public as the official record of the community.

The ledger was started by F. P. Lybrand, Owlet Green Justice of the Peace, and the first entry is November 20, 1884. Prior to this date, records were kept, probably, in Canton. From the time of the beginning of Owlet Green,

approximately during the year 1852 until the recording of the first transaction in the Ledger was 32 years. Owlet Green did not mushroom into a full grown city overnight. Its development was gradual. First a general merchandise store set up shop. Next a blacksmith shop. A few years later a cotton gin. Then a drug store. By 1884, or after some 32 years, the community was fairly well developed. And it did not go out of existence overnight. First, a few families pulled away, and so did a business. Business continued falling off until the last one closed up his shop and moved away in the 1940's. Today, all that remains of Owlet Green is the ruin of a concrete foundation in the corner of a pasture. E. L. Shirley followed F. P. Lybrand, and succeeding Justices of the Peace were: W. H. Richardson, John C. Rusk, W. N. Black, H. C. Berry, the last of whom made the last entry in the register on Oct. 20, 1898. W. W. Peel registered some documents as Notary Public. The ledger contains in original hands of the various Justices of the Peace the affidavits, estrays, deeds, oaths, marriages, and mortgages executed in this community. The ledger is an excellent source for the original inhabitants of Owlet Green. It is rich in genealogical information.

According to marriages performed by F. P. Lybrand, justice of the peace, it then cost \$2.50 for a man and woman to unite in wedlock. In the year 1884, on November 30, S. J. Hill married Amanda Argenbright. In the next year, 1885, on January 25, J. M. Waggoner married Ella Holmes; on April 16, J. M. Weizen married Talatha Estrep; on May 3, J. N. Tomlin married Nannie Baldwin; on Oct. 1, J. M. James married E. E. Emmerson; on Dec. 15, J. W. Jordan married E. L. Wood; on December 17, F. S. Huddle married L. N. Fulgham.

In the following year, 1886, on January 28, Mr. Need Hendley is listed as having married Effie Watts; on March 11, J. W. Mullins married Delia Rusk; on June 2, C. W. Blackwell married M. E. Berry; on June 10, Thomas Golden married Alice Boucherie.

Between April 20, 1885, and August 11, 1886, various transactions registered in the ledger by F. P. Lybrand included those involving J. C. Stewart, A. C. Henderson, Richardson and Payne, M. A. James, E. R. Smith, J. F. Nowlin, H. J. Craft, P. A. Watts, J. L. Lybrand, W. J.

Hendley, A. C. Clough, H. S. Cogburn, Jim Bryant, W. G. Mullins, J. H. Thomas, and J. P. Davidson.

In the year 1886, beginning December 23, E. L. Shirley was Justice of the Peace in Owlet Green. Marriages he performed were: December 23, 1886, W. M. Jordan married Miss R. F. McKinzie; December 30, 1886, J. M. Mc-Lemore married Miss Sevilla Jolley; Feb. 2, 1887, M. L. Moore married Miss A. M. Shropshire; April 29, 1887, H. W. Sanders married Miss L. L. Gilmore; December 22, 1887, H. R. Holland married Mrs. J. N. Yarborough; Dec. 25, 1887, T. J. Gary married Miss Sallie Thompson. On March 25, 1888, W. J. Griffith married Mrs. S. E. Thompson; on August 23, 1888, J. T. Rhodes married Miss M. E. Whetstone.

Marriages performed by W. H. Richardson were: P. W. McKnight and Mazoura (Missouri) King, Dec. 27, 1888, W. J. Morris and Josey McGuire, March 17, 1888; A. D. Huddle and Miss L. V. Clark, July 31, 1889; T. B. Waits and Miss J. A. Jacobs, Oct. 3, 1889; H. F. Jones and Miss C. M. McKinzey, Jan. 2, 1890, and J. H. Leggett and Miss Betty Lybrand, Aug. 17, 1890.

By August 30, 1891, John C. Rusk was Justice of the Peace, and marriages he performed were: August 30, 1891, W. H. White to Miss A. L. King; Oct. 1, 1891, Charles G. Wagner married Miss Beulah Richardson; Oct. 15, 1891, R. A. Enas married Miss Lula Humphrey; Oct. 31, 1891, Wm. J. Smith married Miss Jennie M. Stagner; November 8, 1891, Thomas Brittain married Miss Margaret A. Rosenbaum; on December 20, 1891, Lunar Freeman married Miss Nora Moseley; on Jan. 28, 1892, Wm. H. Dunn married Miss Lou Futch; on Nov. 5, 1892, D. R. Futch married Miss Shug Brown. Feb. 26, 1893, D. D. Stewart married Miss Lou Goode; August 16, 1893, R. W. Howell married Miss Alice B. Cross; on November 23, 1893, C. L. York married Miss Bettie Riggs.

In 1895 W. N. Black, the justice of peace, married H. D. Fountain and Miss A. M. Box on December 25.

Beginning in 1885, some of the affidavits filed with S. P. Lybrand, justice of the peace, included those of:

J. C. Stewart, A. C. Henderson, Richardson and Payne, M. A. James, C. R. Smith, J. F. Nowlin, R. D. Stewart, H. J. Craft, P. A. Watts, J. L. Lybrand, W. J. Hendley (who

filed three affidavits of the estate of Samuel and Bertal Hendley with bond), A. E. Clough, H. E. Cogburn, Jim Bryant, W. G. Mullins, J. H. Thomas, J. P. Davidson, T. J. Cates, and T. J. Stanford.

In 1884 and 1885 some of the deeds filed with F. P. Lybrand included those of L. L. Hendley, John A. Morris, J. A. Langford, John Geddie, Cicero Rusk, M. E. and E. R. Fulgam to F. S. and D. W. Huddle, W. R. Murphy and wife to Joseph Heard, W. F. Smith and wife to E. N. Youngblood, J. E. Prather and wife to J. M. Blackstock, R. C. Webb and wife to Simeon West, Elizabeth Webb to E. N. Youngblood, W. M. Jones to J. C. Clark, W. M. Jones to A. A. Clark, W. M. Jones to W. W. Peel, J. C. Maxfield to Susan A. Thealford and J. L. Russell, H. J. Kirkpatrick and wife to J. M. Johnson, D. H. Rose and wife to M. A. James, Daniel McMillan and S. E. McMillan, wife to Stephen A. Stewart, 125 acres of land in the Louis Richardson survey.

M. H. Rose and wife to Thomas Jackson, A. A. Clough to W. C. Hightower, R. R. Cade and wife to F. M. Cade, James R. Wright and wife to R. C. Webb. Bryant Weaver and wife to Albert Buchirie, Wm. Hendley and wife, Sarah Hendley, to Need Hendley, H. R. King and wife Malarie, to A. W. Davidson, Need Hendley to Wm. and Sarah Hendley, William and Sarah Hendley to W. J. Hendley, T. J. Berry and wife to T. J. Cates, J. F. Davidson and wife to T. J. Cates, David Nixon and wife to Thomas Cooper, N. Webb and wife to T. J. Cates, G. A. Kellam and wife, M. A. Kellam, to W. G. Payne, D. M. Rose and wife to Sam Allen.

Beginning in 1886, some of the deeds filed with F. P. Lybrand included those of J. M. Wood and wife to S. A. Thompson, R. F. Stewart and wife to W. T. Hanks, J. B. Heard and wife, Mollie, to T. J. Wood, A. F. Aycock and wife to M. B. and S. C. Blackstock, J. N. and wife, M. M. Kirkpatrick to Cicero Rusk, W. C. Hightower and wife to A. C. Clough, A. C. Clough and wife to Norman Webb, J. A. Geddie and wife, A. M. Geddie, to R. K. Weaver and wife, T. C. Weaver, 100 acres of land in the Elias Van Sickle survey for \$350.00.

Back in the old days, stray animals, if owners could not be located, were claimed by the finders and sold. This was

done under the law of "Estray." In 1885, some of the animals "taken up and estrayed," included a "bony, bay, mare" by J. M. Laseter, a red heifer by M. L. Taylor, a red steer by W. W. Fowler, a cow and calf by T. Cooper, cow and calf by Joel Moseley, a red and white spotted steer by T. A. Geddie, a dark brown mare by E. J. Steel, bay horse by J. D. McDavid.

Bills of sale for a varied assortment of goods and animals are recorded in 1886 by F. P. Lybrand between D. P. Baker and J. D. Hodges, Calhoun Roberts, and Richardson and Payne, J. Clark and R. D. Bouget, R. D. Bradford and John Taylor to C. P. Smith, J. K. P. Leggett to J. L. Lybrand, Adam Donaldson to W. G. Gilbert, B. P. Riddle, Power of attorney to B. T. Riddle and M. A. Mason of Montague County.

From Deeds of Trust recorded by F. P. Lybrand in 1885, it is apparent that Richardson and Payne were the principal cotton and animal buyers in the communities of Owlet Green and Colfax in the early years. Recorded as selling cotton to Richardson and Payne are Mac Ross, Frank Taylor, J. A. Morris, Frank Love, C. W. Hilliard, and C. J. Robinet.

Joshua Hallman, from other sources, has been reported to be a lender of money back in the days when the Texas Almanac reported that the people of Van Zandt County dealt in specie (that is cold, hard cash), because they did not believe in banks. The book of records in Owlet Green as preserved by F. P. Lybrand, J. C. Rusk and others, confirms this, because in this book it is recorded that Joshua Hallman took mortgages from L. L. Hendley, James Wright, W. H. Richardson, Sam Myers, Levy Hallman, D. D. Lybrand, W. A. Thompson. These mortgages are evidently taken on land sold by Joshua Hallman in the settlement of the estate of Daniel Hallman, of which Joshua was the administrator. In 1886 it is recorded by F. P. Lybrand that Joshua Hallman filed deeds of trust with Lybrand, confirming sales of land formerly belonging to D. Hallman to L. L. Hendley, James Wright, and W. N. Richardson and Sam Myers, all the land lying in the James Plemons land right survey of Van Zandt County. Other deeds of trust given by Joshua Hallman includes those to

Levi Hallman, D. D. Lybrand, and W. A. B. Thompson, mostly in Nacogdoches school land survey.

On the highway that begins in Grand Saline, passes the old Ocie Terry farm, crosses the Van-Colfax highway just a few miles east from Colfax, there is, just a few hundred yards south of the Van-Colfax intersection, a cemetery by the side of the road that contains an old picket fence. The cemetery is in bad shape today, and is hardly noticed. It contains some of the children of Margaret (born Pollard) and James Johnson. These Johnson children were born in Arkansas, where their father, James Johnson died. The record of the deed given by James K. Oakes donating land for this particular cemetery is contained in the old record book started by F. P. Lybrand, justice of peace in Owlet Green. On March 1st, 1886, J. K. Oakes, donating land for this particular cemetery is contained in the old record book started by F. P. Lybrand, justice of peace in Owlet Green. On March 1st, 1886, J. K. Oakes, C. W. Tunnell and B. G. Pollard are named trustees of the Dawson burial ground, one-fourth acre of land of the Joseph Robinson survey. Consideration for the land was one dollar. Lybrand made no charge for notary services.

Deeds recorded by F. P. Lybrand, justice of the peace in Owlet Green in the year 1886 reveal some of the old-time names of the Colfax vicinity. W. C. Hacker and wife sold Thomas M. Heard 125 acres of land, P. A. Motts sold R. D. Badgett one hundred acres of land, D. D. Lybrand sold T. J. Lybrand fifty-eight acres of land, R. C. Webb sold J. A. Gothard fifty acres, W. S. Burton and wife sold R. W. Beggs fifty-five acres of land, H. N. and Isabella McPhail sold Margaret Ann Rosenbaum 80 acres, Need Hendley sold D. L. Thompson 33 1/3 acres of land, D. D. Lybrand sold R. N. Lybrand forty-three acres of land, James A. Geddie and wife, Rebecca J., sold B. W. Gentry twenty-five acres of land, A. C. Clough sold M. E. Davidson fifty acres, James A. Craft sold Richard Woodall fifty acres, W. A. B. Thompson sold W. C. N. Gilstrap seventy acres of land, E. H. Youngblood sold T. N. Calhoun one hundred ninety-five acres, T. N. Calhoun sold E. H. Youngblood forty-three acres, A. M. White sold J. A. Geddie, Jr., sixty-five acres, N. M. Johnson sold T. R. Edwards 103 acres, L. M. Heard sold Thomas J. Towns 73 1/2 acres, T. J.

Lybrand sold W. T. Jarman 58 acres, A. M. White sold C. P. Smith 160 acres, J. C. Lamphier sold A. R. Tunnell 40 acres, A. A. Brassfield sold W. E. Hacker 100 acres, Thomas A. Geddie sold B. G. (Benjamin Glover) Pollard 52 1/2 acres, Thomas M. Heard sold A. A. Brassfield 52 acres, John Geddie sold Need Hendley 76 1/2 acres, Need Hendley sold E. D. Fountain 160 acres, Joe A. Smith sold C. E. Smith 60 acres, C. D. Sides sold Sim West 341 acres. L. M. Heard sold Thos. J. Towns 72 acres, D. A. Baker and wife Jane sold J. D. Hodges 57 acres, A. M. White sold C. P. Smith 160 acres, W. S. Doyle sold J. C. Pinkerton 100 acres, H. H. Benefield sold W. B. King 60 acres. Other transactions included D. A. Baker to J. J. Hodges 57 acres, W. S. Doyle to J. C. Pinkerton 100 acres.

On November 16, 1886, F. P. Lybrand made his last entry. On November 28, 1886, E. L. Shirley was the new justice of peace. He recorded deeds in transactions in which R. R. Goode sold B. W. Gentry one acre of the Benjamin F. Duval assignee of the Thomas T. McKinney and Samuel Williams survey one acre of land for the consideration of \$112.50. James A. Craft sold a Mr. Woodall 50 acres. B. W. Gentry and wife, V. (Virginia), sold to Payne & Stewart 353 acres of land, a portion of the Archibald McPhail, James Geddie, Benjamin F. Duval assignee of the Thomas T. McKinney and Samuel Williams and Thomas Jackson surveys for \$2,500.00. A. J. Mitchell sold M. C. Snyder 101 acres. B. W. Gentry sold C. C. Reeks one acre of land for \$220.00 on December 23, 1886. Just twenty-six years prior to that date a person was able to buy 300 acres for \$30.00 and have three years to pay for it. Land values had risen considerably in the 26-year span. Another transaction was between J. J. Murphree and T. N. Thompson.

Some of the other deeds recorded by E. L. Shirley were: J. M. Blackstock to J. White, 66 acres; J. J. Murphree to William Taylor, 15 acres; J. D. Carroll to A. M. Platner, 40 acres; R. C. McKenzie to J. P. Murphree 40 acres; W. C. Franklin to J. W. Ralston 39 acres; T. N. Calhoun to E. H. Youngblood, 185 acres; S. B. Anderson to J. D. Potter, unspecified in a town lot; W. B. Smith to D. H. Swindall, one acre; A. G. B. Cade to Sam White School Community, 1/2 acre of land in Block No. 11 of the Nacogdoches School land; T. J. Lybrand to Sam White School Community, 1

acre of land; Needham Hendley and wife Effie, to William Hendley, 76 1/2 acres, F. Loden to Wm. M. Jordan, 36 1/2 acres; J. S. Rhodes to J. H. Coleman, 90 acres; Joel Moseley to G. F. Crim, 110 acres; J. D. Carroll to M. N. Carroll, 20 acres; J. H. Beck to A. M. Sheffield, 160 acres; J. D. Adkins to R. R. Goode and B. W. Gentry, 226 acres.

In 1888, E. L. Shirley recorded deeds, involving mostly land transactions between the following: G. E. Daniel and G. D. Woodley, J. T. Hatton and wife to Corinth Mill and Gin Association, D. C. and R. E. Darnell to Henry and James Smith, J. N. and Mary W. Fuller to B. O. Darnell, R. M. Vance to J. H. Vance, J. W. Hollis to J. L. Hudgins, who apparently bought cotton by the acre. J. T. Goode, A. C. Watson, M. A. Quindlen, L. E. Richardson, A. J. Eason, M. E. Clower, Jason Carroll, J. A. Cumbie, and J. T. Hatton all assigned a certain number of acres of cotton to J. L. Hudgins. Additional transactions recorded by E. L. Shirley were: B. O. Darnell to M. V. Peacock, J. M. Rucker to W. J. Rucker, Nora G. Montgomery to G. R. Hamilton, A. D. Luce to D. H. Swindall, D. W. Daniel to Sallie B. Byrd, G. W. Swindall to J. W. Vance, S. W. Adkins to G. M. Montgomery, B. T. Harrison to B. B. Baird, P. G. Hawkins to T. R. Freeman, and J. G. Tunnell to P. G. Hawkins.

On December 15, 1888, A. R. Tunnell signed the school voucher for the Swindall* School Community. W. H. Richardson signed the affidavit as the justice of the peace in Owlet Green.

Some of the deeds recorded by W. H. Richardson, justice of the peace in Owlet Green in the year 1888 were: M. E. Franklin to J. T. Rhodes, J. S. Covington to J. H. Row, W. T. Cross to C. E. Snow, Sarah and Jacob Wells to T. N. Jones, J. T. Rhodes and wife to S. J. Childs, W. H. Lindsey to A. G. Deen, C. P. Smith and wife to R. D. Bradford, who paid \$350.00 for a tract of land 13 miles east of the town of Canton in Van Zandt County, T. J. Howell to A. R. Tunnell, J. W. White to J. D. McPhail, who paid \$175 for 50 acres of land 12 miles east from town of Canton.

W. H. Richardson signed his last entry on November 17, 1890. On December 6th, 1890, J. C. Rusk made the

official entries in the official record book of Owlet Green, an agricultural community deep in the heart of the Free State that today, in 1962, is marked only the ruins of a concrete foundation. The land that once was occupied by the businesses and the townlots now is in pasture, with the chunk of concrete protruding amongst the grass petals as a ghostly reminder of the long ago.

Deeds of conveyance recorded by J. C. Rusk include: R. R. Goode and B. W. Gentry to Theodore Witsall, I. B. Hardin to A. G. Oliver, W. W. Peel to R. F. Stewart, A. C. Fowler and wife to C. D. Blackstock, R. K. Prestridge and wife to C. H. Oliver, W. W. Putnam and wife to R. F. Stewart, R. R. Cade and wife to T. M. Cade, A. B. Cade and wife to R. R. Cade, W. J. Hendley and wife to B. G. Pollard, 76 1/2 acres of land nine miles east from Canton on the headwaters of the Neches River, W. R. Murphy to S. P. Gordon, C. P. Smith to John H. Rose, Elizabeth Wells to Della Phelps, W. J. Hendley and wife L. C. Hendley, to T. I. Steel, N. S. Mayfield to N. A. Gentry, T. N. Crimm to B. F. Reid, W. B. Cox to J. P. Hendley, H. E. Wallace to J. A. Cox, E. T. Berry to J. D. McPhail, 116 acres of land 7 1/2 miles east of Canton on the Canton-Tyler road, Theodore Whitsall to G. A. Oliver, A. G. B. Cade to I. H. Cade, R. M. Tunnell to E. B. Tunnell, R. L. Howell to T. J. Howell, T. J. Howell, to R. M. Tunnell, C. W. Tunnell and R. G. Stewart for self and attorney in fact for heir of Elisha and Nancy Tunnell, deceased, C. H. Oliver to C. Lolley, A. L. Kellam and wife to John S. Thorn. On December 7, 1891, J. S. Thorn obtained a mineral option on the E. R. Crocker homestead from E. R. Crocker and wife, and the same from J. T. Goode, T. M. Post and W. F. Post. Other deeds were: Need Hendley to W. N. White, A. M. White to A. B. White, Levy Hendley to M. J. Hendley, T. L. McPhail to Levy Hendley, E. R. Crocker to Albert Furr, A. L. Kellam to John H. Matthews, John T. Slaughter to C. Rusk, B. W. Gentry to R. W. Howell, W. H. Geddie to W. N. Beggs, W. B. Smith to F. M. Wade, W. C. Herrin to W. D. Chapell, J. R. Bryant to L. E. Bryant, C. Rusk to N. C. Cameron, M. Cox to E. H. Youngblood, R. L. Howell to George W. Fowler, H. N. McPhail and Isabella McPhail to J. W. Manyon, N. S. Max-

field to G. A. Hall, G. E. Barber to C. E. Neill, E. R. Crocker to George Cruse.

On December 20, 1893, W. N. Black was the justice of the peace in Owlet Green community and the first duty he did was to take an oath by C. A. Freeman, G. W. Fowler, and R. G. Camper as trustees of the Spring Hill School Community No. 62, Van Zandt County. Other oaths J. P. W. N. Black took were those of W. H. Richardson and J. C. Stewart as school trustees, that of S. B. Linsey registering a Jersey cow in the American Jersey Cattle Club of Broadway, New York, oath of O. J. Bacon for school voucher of Stanger Springs school, oath of E. C. Peel as a witness of a deed executed by W. N. Peel and wife.

Deeds W. N. Black recorded were: John Lindsey to J. N. Stephens, C. A. Freeman to M. E. Freeman, W. M. Jordan to J. J. Cameron, J. A. Cozby to J. L. White, a deed cancelled by agreement six months later, A. J. Bailiff to W. M. Jordan, H. L. Henderson to H. C. and Texana Berry, Wm. R. Wells to Wm. B. Fowler, J. W. Allen to Archie Allen, Cynthia McAdams to Arthur Crim, R. F. Stewart to J. E. Fulton, J. A. Carroll to G. A. Clower, O. J. Bacon to W. G. Mullins, S. L. Smith to John Wallin, W. B. Fowler to W. C. Gilley, W. E. Marrett to W. J. Jones, W. E. Marrett to J. R. Huff, Arthur Crim to W. J. G. White, C. A. Clowers to W. A. Clowers, J. T. Williams to J. A. Stone, A. F. Aycock to J. M. Martin, W. W. Peel to E. C. Peel, R. F. Stewart to E. C. Peel, H. L. Henderson to H. C. Berry, H. L. Henderson to Thos. Jarman, A. F. Riggs to B. F. Riggs, R. M. and E. B. Tunnell to Willie J. Howell, J. N. Fullerton to W. A. Mullican, W. H. White to J. F. White, W. W. Fowler to H. R. King, G. N. Cross to J. F. Hall, A. G. Dean and wife of Grand Saline to D. D. Stewart of Owlet Green, W. W. Jordan and wife of Pruitt to John M. Thompson of Van, C. E. Neill to Allen Martin, J. A. Smith to R. E. Neill, Meredith Thomson to C. C. Neill, J. P. Bradford to W. B. Hill, V. E. Richardson to W. W. Peel, J. R. Kennedy to Mrs. M. P. Hendley, E. C. Thomas Jarmon to Coleman Wood, R. E. Bogan, and J. W. Peel to Adam Johnson, C. A. Freeman to J. M. Martin, J. B. Cumbie to R. R. Burns, J. H. Vance to D. M. Vance, J. M. Palmer to J. J. Palmer, J. D. Blackstock to G. W. Swindall, F. M. Towns to E. Tunnell, Isaac Malone

and wife to B. W. Gentry, W. T. Lawler to H. H. Dunn, E. V. Tunnell to Charley Blackstock, J. W. Ellis to J. M. Thompson, John Thompson to E. B. Tunnell, B. F. Riggs to R. R. Gooch. A portion of the above deeds were recorded by H. C. Berry who became justice of the peace in Owlet Green in December 1896.

Berry also recorded, among others, deeds between: R. R. Goode to W. G. Carter, G. W. Swindall to N. S. Maxfield, John Thompson to W. M. Jordan, R. R. Goode to L. R. Riggs, W. G. Carter to L. R. Riggs, C. A. Freeman to G. W. Swindall, W. R. King to Elizabeth Fowler, J. M. Martin to C. A. Freeman, W. T. Jarman to Walter H. Hill, J. W. Pool to W. M. Jarmon, W. D. Adams to R. E. Carroll. The last entry of the book is made on October 20, 1898. and it records a deed between W. T. Jarman and wife to Walter H. Hill for several acres of land about 12 1/4 miles southeast of Canton.

An original tally list of a general election held on the 8th day of November, 1904, in election precinct No. 7, Owlet Green, Van Zandt County, reveals some of the names of the oldtimers in the Colfax area. The list was kept by A. B. Cade. An affidavit is given at the end of the poll list to the effect that C. W. Tunnell was appointed presiding officer of the election, and that W. A. Jacobs was appointed assistant judge because on that day J. C. Stewart and V. B. Cozby were absent. In addition to Jacobs and Tunnell, other election judges were R. R. Cade, B. W. Gentry, and clerks were R. T. Stewart, L. A. Richardson, A. B. Cade, and H. E. Tunnell.

The election on November 8, 1804 carried Owlet Green for the Democratic party and named the electors for president and vice president of the Democratic party. Among the electors named was Alvin C. Owsley. C. A. Culbertson ran unopposed for United States Senator, Gordon Briswell won the Owlet Green box for Congress. S. W. T. Lanham was overwhelming favorite of the Owlet Green voters for Governor of Texas, and George D. Neal carried the box for lieutenant governor. Others carrying precinct No. 7, of which Owlet Green was the voting place, were J. W. Stephens for Comptroller, John W. Robbins for State Treasurer, J. J. Terrell, Land Commissioner, R. B. Cousins, superintendent of public instruction, T. J.

Brown, Associate Justice of Supreme Court, M. G. Sanders, State Representative to Texas Legislature, R. W. Simpson, Judge of Judicial District, J. W. Greer, district attorney, John W. Davidson, county judge, Alex Collins, county attorney, H. J. Craft, district clerk, C. A. Mayfield, county clerk, J. W. Howard, county sheriff, B. H. McKinnon, tax collector, A. B. Chappell, tax assessor, A. G. Dean, county treasurer, and W. W. Gipson, county surveyor.

Among candidates on ballot were: Lee A. Clark, Jacob F. Walters, Fred Dudley, George B. Terrell, Ras Young, T. F. Mangrum, T. F. Ridgell, C. S. Bradley, James C. Feagin, J. G. Ashford, W. L. Adkins, A. L. Stacy, A. R. Eidsen, John A. Hines, Robert J. Kleberg, Albert Stevenson, Chas. A. Baynton, J. H. Durth, J. J. Dickerson, W. C. Averill, G. L. Palmer, W. G. McGintis, T. W. Bartlett, Tyler Haswell, Wm R. Roberts, George W. Jones, J. G. Schumach, Carl Beck, Aaron Sutter, John R. Stanley, J. L. Gaston, John Marbuck, T. W. Moore, J. S. Blankenbecker,, B. P. Bailey, J. C. Keahey, J. T. White and others.

Those voting, or the poll list, included:

P. W. Shields, T. L. McPhail, W. O. Cone, W. S. Woodard, S. V. Wilson, H. D. Clements, R. E. Cade, T. L. Gilbert, J. T. Rogers, W. H. Richardson, E. J. Steel, W. A. Darman, C. A. Allen, D. M. Tunnell, G. E. Steel, A. R. Crocker, C. D. Smith, W. D. Davis, A. J. O. Allen, C. O. Walters, P. E. Neill, C. H. Cannon, J. F. Walters, T. J. Lybrand, S. M. Stewart, J. P. Loper, S. A. Stewart, G. A. Clowers, J. T. Walters, J. C. Clowers, W. J. Smith, J. A. Kirkpatrick, A. M. Hillard, J. W. Kirkpatrick, W. R. Cook, C. H. Hillard, C. W. Graham, H. L. Henderson, J. S. Jordan, T. L. Post, H. L. June, J. K. Wendle, W. J. Thomas, J. F. Pitts, J. A. McPhail, R. L. Howell, B. W. Russell, C. C. Clowers, W. H. Dunn, C. W. Tunnell, T. C. Perry, A. G. B. Cade, B. L. McNeill, J. K. Oakes, T. J. Howell, R. L. Mayne, J. A. Clowers, T. A. Geddie, B. F. Wilson, J. J. Goode, Sam Wilson, T. A. Jones, J. T. Martin, R. A. George, L. H. Hendley, H. E. Harris, A. B. White, H. B. Pollard, W. T. Lawley, T. R. Freeman, M. A. James, W. H. Stewart, J. R. Tunnell, Ed Dodson, L. C. Freeman, G. W. Jarman, R. G. Stewart, L. J. Richardson, W. S. Brandon, W. R. Peel, C. H. Oliver, J. D. Matthews, B. E. Head, G. T. Matthews, J. H. Matthews, S. C. Martin, J. W. Geddie, W. G. Payne, J. W. Hale, J. A.

Allen, C. H. Matthews, E. R. Peel, D. C. Cade, W. R. Cade, F. M. Cade, J. E. White, C. E. Thorn, L. L. Keahey, B. W. Gentry, R. W. Howell, G. J. Lybrand, A. J. Browning, H. E. Tunnell, A. B. Cade, J. W. Hysmith, M. L. Tunnell, J. H. McMahon, J. C. Rhines, W. W. Jones, O. D. Terry, W. H. Geddie, W. A. Jacobs, R. B. Prather, V. C. Hanks, W. W. Easley, R. Clark, T. J. Turner, J. H. Bagwell, W. F. Hale, C. J. Rhines, V. B. Cosby, L. L. Moreland, and J. A. Stewart.

In the records of Van Zandt County Abstract Co., it is found that W. H. Rose gave the land on which Marvin's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church South was located. F. P. Lybrand donated land for the Baptist Church in Owlet Green, and R. R. Goode gave the land for the Owlet Green School.

Owlet Green was a great little community, but it exists no more. Perhaps a lesson may be learned from the rise and fall of this agricultural town where so many Van Zandt families had their origin. Nothing lasts forever. Even a town as important in the daily lives of the early inhabitants of Van Zandt as Owlet Green is expendable, it doesn't go on and on forever without an effort by its citizens to insure its perpetuity. The story of Owlet Green is a familiar one that has unfolded among the families of the race that populated the area, principally those of Scot and Irish descent, a story that has repeated itself millions of times in the last 2,000 years. Migrations to new places, new environments . . . settling down . . . building a community . . . rearing a family . . . outgrowing the homestead . . . the younger sons moving on to other parts . . . finally no youngsters are left, only the old timers, who soon pass to their reward . . . a division of property . . . sale to a stranger who in some cases is entirely unfamiliar with the historical background of that which he has purchased.

The remains of a concrete foundation . . . that is all remaining of this bustling community known as Owlet Green, a name as familiar to me as my own. I'd ask my father: Where were you born. He'd reply "Allet Green." It was not until I was grown and was led to the place where the concrete now reposes did I know that "Allet" Green was "Owlet" Green, the flourishing center of trade

in the last years of the 19th century. A lot of mighty good people made up this community. Most are gone now, but are not forgotten.

